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REPORT FROM MINNEAPOLIS PAGE 32

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The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 137, No. 5 November 1994

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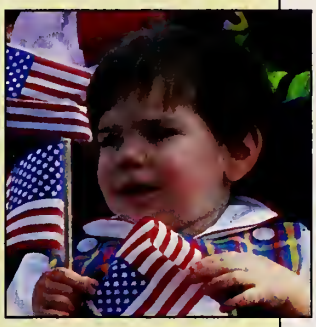

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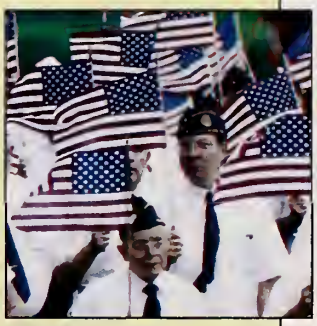

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COVER *The town of Mineral Wells remembers Veterans Day, Texas style. See Page 22. Photograph by Jeff Shaw.*

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 3.1 million members. These military-service veterans, working through nearly 15,000 community-level Posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.

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Anniversary Issue

The editors and their staff should be congratulated on the special issue of the magazine marking the 75th Diamond Jubilee of The American Legion (September). It is something to behold, and to treasure as a keepsake. The theme, "For God and Country," made me prouder than ever that I am a member of The American Legion — only for God and Country am I willing to give my life.

Rev. Dr. Edward A. Lenk
Whitesboro, NY

With thrill and delight, I found my father's picture in the "Remember When" section of the 75th Anniversary issue. As a child, along with my brother, we were trekked hither and yon to all local, state and national parades, competitions and exhibitions with our beloved Dad, E. Otte, and our Auxiliary Mom.

Those outings with our Drum Corps Daddy were very, very wonderful years — late parades, rainstorms, lost drum sticks, bleached crossbelts, shiny Sam Browne belts, painted shoe soles — all a part of a fabulous patriotic history, for which I shall always be grateful. My Dad loved The American Legion and all it stands for.

Joyce Otte Granberg
Hackettstown, N.J.

As a relatively new member of The American Legion, I was rather disappointed to find President Bill Clinton featured as a lead dignitary in your "What The Legion Means To America" article. Presumably this was done out of respect for the office rather than the man.

Jerold S. Weiner
Blairstown, N.J.

Pocketing Property

The article by Paul Craig Roberts, "How Uncle Sam Pockets Your Property" (August), describes how the Postal Service is forcing companies to pay for mail that should have been sent through the Postal Service. The Postal Service is directed by Congress to deliver mail to every person, place and business within the United States for one cost.

Special exemptions were found that allow for use of other carriers in the handling of urgent mail. Companies are abusing this exemption by avoiding proper payment of postage to save themselves money. But they are helping raise the cost of postage to all American citizens. This type of abuse, just like reusing stamps, is against the law and is theft of furnished services.

W.S. Chasteen
Postmaster, Hodges, S.C.

The article, "How Uncle Sam Pockets Your Property," and especially its quotation of Ann Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* are fully worth twice the annual dues.

John Van Noy
Deming, N.M.

For Old Glory

The burning of the American Flag as a way of protest is an act of violence, not an expression of free speech ("National Flag Amendment Coalition Formed," Legion News, August).

Burning a Flag is also an incitement to riot because there are Americans for whom such an act is tantamount to an insult to their parentage. Burning the Flag is a show of unconscionable disrespect to those who have died in the service of their country. Flag burners forget that the Flag does not symbolize the government alone: It stands for all Americans.

Ivan Melada
Albuquerque, N.M.

I am ashamed that Vermont is one of the six states that does not have a streamer on its state flag in the hall leading to the National Executive Committee Room at National Headquarters in Indianapolis. It is sad that a minority of people can influence our legislature to vote down a resolution of such significance. The only tool a person has to correct this situation is voting. We should cast our votes to overthrow those who voted against this resolution.

Arthur J. Lettieri
Westminster, Vt.

Holocaust Witnesses

My friend, Richard Barber, lectures about his experience as a soldier who witnessed the horrors of Buchenwald firsthand. In fact, he is the young soldier on the right side of Page 29 of the August issue ("Witnesses To The Holocaust," by Leslie and Jeremy Milk). There will always be people who refuse to believe it all happened but thanks to those like Dick Barber, the Holocaust will *never* be forgotten.

Celeste B. Rubanick
Orlando, Fla.

Many times over the years I have relived the memories of that April 1945 day that my outfit, Co. A, 317th Inf., 80th Div., entered the Buchenwald prison camp. I cannot find adequate words to fully describe how hor-

Please turn page

WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE welcomes letters to the editor concerning articles that appear in the publication. Be sure to include a daytime phone number for verification. Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters are subject to editing for clarity and brevity. Volume precludes individual acknowledgements of comments on editorial content.

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Correction

In the article, "1950s," in the September issue, the number of U.S. deaths in service for the Korean War was incorrect. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the correct figure is 55,000.

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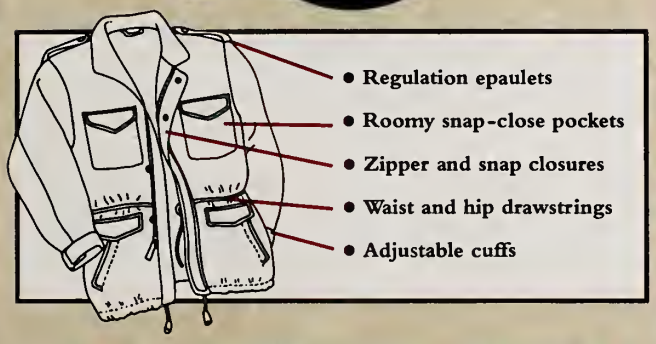

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rible it was. Even to this day the odor coming from the camp still remains vivid with me.

Lowell Drudge
Bremen, Ind.

It was good to see your article on the Holocaust because so many people have forgotten that it happened. However, you went to the extreme by stating, "Even decorated German soldiers were killed if they were injured and unable to further assist the Nazi war effort." This statement is not true.

Marc J. Cohen
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"Witnesses To The Holocaust" is historically inaccurate when it attributes Hitler's execution of his long-time friend and confidant Ernst Roehm solely, or even primarily, to the latter's homosexuality. The elimination of Roehm was part of a deal Hitler made with the Army to rid it of the competition of the millions of Storm Troopers, who, in a sense, formed a competing army.

Barry C. Fain
Tarzana, Calif.

I get so mad when I hear or read about people who say it never happened. Here's my story:

A lieutenant and I were riding in a jeep. The lieutenant told me we were going to crash the gates of Dachau. About 20 miles from there, I smelled something that made me sick. The lieutenant said it was Dachau, and they were still burning the bodies.

When we got to Dachau, there were over 1,000 bodies piled up on flat cars along the banks of the railroad tracks. That's when I first threw up. The gates were closed, so we got a tank to push the fence down. Hundreds of living corpses were laying on boards they used for beds. One of them who weighed about 65 pounds tried to hug me, but we were told not to touch them because they might have diseases. So I turned away and started to cry.

I got sick again when we went to the still-burning ovens and saw the heads and feet sticking out of them. Then we went to the Buchenwald camp, but by then I could take it a little better, although I still cried. I even have tears in my eyes writing this.

Bernard A. Zylka
Duluth, Minn.

Anyone with the least amount of intelligence knows the Holocaust was a reality. But I do have a question. According to the article, 11 million were put to death. This would indicate approximately 5,000 people were put to death every day for five years or more. Where did the 11 million figure come from and how did they arrive at that amount?

Ralph E. Reis
Hernando, Fla.

I am sure some POWs were executed and many were not accorded treatment dictated by the Geneva Conventions. But it is totally incorrect to state that "Prisoners of war were usually executed." Statements such as this diminish the value of the total article.

Joe Quade
Montville, NJ

The authors reply: About Marc J. Cohen's comment: Arno J. Mayer wrote in *Why Do The Heavens Not Darken*, "On August 24, 1941, Hitler called off the wholesale euthanasia. He could not afford to have the morale of the Wehrmacht undermined by doubts about the fate of wounded war heroes."

• Barry C. Fain is correct that Roehm was shot to death as part of a power struggle. However, Dr. Michael Berenbaum, project director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and an adjunct professor at Georgetown University, wrote in his book, *The World Must Know*: "His murder, which was lauded and officially sanctioned, was a signal to intensify the antihomosexual campaign.... Soon Himmler created a special criminal police force office to fight homosexuality. By December 1944, homosexual 'intent' was sufficient for criminal prosecution."

• The figure of 6 million Jews and as many as 5 million non-Jews was based on research by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

• To Joe Quade, our source was the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Michael Berenbaum's book, *The World Must Know*. Berenbaum wrote: "From the time of the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 to the end of World War II in May 1945, as many as 3.3 million Soviet prisoners of war died at the hands of the Nazis as a result of mass execution, brutal mistreatment, intentional starvation, and lack of clothing and shelter. Most were killed during the first year."

• The article stated that a member of the 183rd Engineering Combat Bn. liberated the Buckenwald concentration camp in 1945. Although records are incomplete, the 183rd is not among units officially listed by the Army as having liberated the camp.

Memorial Day Credit

As chairman of the Memorial Day Weekend Salute to Veterans Corporation in Columbia, Mo., I thank you for the pictures of our celebration in the May issue ("A Day for Remembering" by Gary Turbak).

Although I am sure that many of our volunteers are members of American Legion Post 202, they join our group as individuals and not as participants with any other civic or military organization.

Mary McCleary Posner
Columbia, Mo.

Taxing Travelers

While there is no doubt the article by Lawrence Tabak, "Taxing The Traveler" (July), raises legitimate issues, it is unfortunate that Knoxville was singled out as an example of problems because we pride ourselves on being friendly and forthright.

We do have room-tax charges as do thousands of localities across the nation. But at most of the hotels and motels in our area, people are told when they are checking in. There is certainly no intent to deceive. I hope the Linharts, who were mentioned in the article and had this unfortunate experience, will consider visiting Knoxville again.

Victor Ashe
Mayor, Knoxville, Tenn. □

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THE PHONE rings at the offices of The American Legion hundreds of times each day. Whenever veterans need help, they call The American Legion. And for veterans, The American Legion is never a wrong number.

Although we are not at war, news of American casualties from past wars keeps coming in. Veterans tell of unexplained illness and service-connected disabilities.

They ask about VA services and for direction through the veterans' benefit bureaucracy.

The lingering cost of war is loud and clear if you listen for it. And when we answer the calls at The American Legion, we not only listen, we try to help.

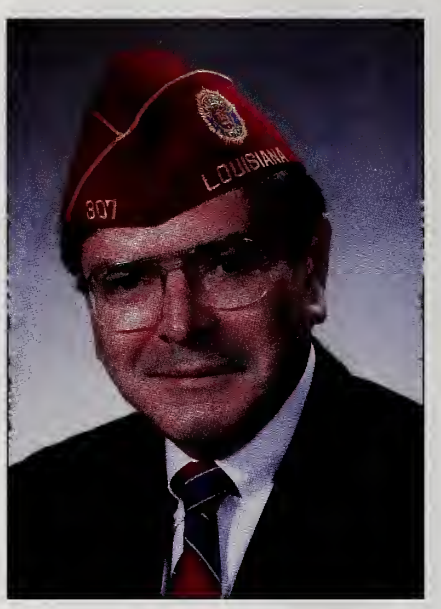
On Veterans Day, that's what we all must do — listen for the sounds of service, which can be as saddening as Taps or as uplifting as a Sousa march. Listen for the sounds of service, and answer the call for help.

Americans who don't hear from veterans can more easily let Veterans Day pass without a moment of silence.

After all, how can people appreciate the meaning of this day if they can't hear the calls: voices of Gulf War GIs who are sick and don't know why; the sobbing of families who have buried Vietnam veterans who died from exposure to Agent Orange; and the struggles of disabled veterans who are reminded of their GI days each time they strap on an arm or a leg, or every time they use their wheelchairs.

Occasionally, the sounds of service are so tragic that they are heard by everyone. Such was the case this year with the suicide of Lewis B. Puller Jr., who shot and killed himself after years of agony.

As a Marine in Vietnam in 1968, Puller lost his legs and parts of both hands when he stepped on an enemy land mine.



Nat'l. Cmdr. William M. Detweiler

Puller's story of struggling to overcome his disabilities was chronicled in his Pulitzer Prize-winning 1991 book, *Fortunate Son*. But his pain was apparently unbearable.

Veterans Day has meaning because of these types of sacrifice and loss, but it represents more than the cost of war. It honors the men and women who won us the peace.

Men and women like your parents and grandparents. We can never appreciate them too much or tell them too many times how thankful we are for their service. We can't forget what they did when their country needed them.

On Veterans Day, every American who answered the call to arms has a place in our thoughts.

On Veterans Day, we celebrate what veterans gave to our country and we take time to remember the sacrifices they made.

When men and women leave their families to serve in their country's armed forces, life back home does not wait for them. Good jobs go to others and the distance ends many relationships. And many never do return.

Veterans know about these risks, and yet they answer their country's call anyway. Veterans Day is about honoring those who made sacrifices, when called upon, to serve in the U.S. armed forces. Civilians became GIs and soon the GIs became veterans.

When GIs become veterans, the transition is often permanent. But for both, one ally remains constant: The American Legion.

Whether you wear a uniform today or did so once with pride, membership in this organization is one way to honor veterans and what they stand for all year long.

If you know veterans who are eligible for The American Legion, sign them up. There's also the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion. Together, this Legion family looks out for veterans every day, not just on Veterans Day.

When two attorneys working for VA's Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) were accused of destroying papers from veterans' claim files, THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE was the first to break the news. And The American Legion has put into motion all of its forces to make sure the investigation is thorough. We will work with VA to make sure this never happens again.

When policy-makers called for cutting too much of our armed forces, The American Legion was not silent. We cautioned them that forces that aren't strong enough equal more casualties when war comes.

And when veterans and their families need help of any kind — and everyone else turns them away — they call The American Legion.

When a GI becomes a veteran, few things remain the same. However, The American Legion is always fighting for them.

When veterans need help — on Veterans Day or on any day — The American Legion is the one to call. □

The world is at your fingertips with...

The Grundig World Band Receiver

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Announcing a revolutionary breakthrough in world-band radios...from Grundig, the leader in German shortwave electronics. This miracle of miniaturization is not sold in U.S. stores or catalogs—only Willabee & Ward has it!

Tune in to events around the globe.

The RK-709 is the world's smallest 12-band receiver—AM, FM, FM Stereo (with headphones, included), and *all* 9 major shortwave bands. Small enough to fit into a pocket, briefcase, or purse, yet big on features. Telescoping antenna pulls signals from anywhere in the world. Listen to legendary BBC newscasts—the best in the world. Hear what Radio Moscow is saying about Yeltsin, and President Clinton. Listen to the Voice of America for news from home when you travel abroad. Follow a crisis or breaking story wherever you are and no matter where it's happening: Baghdad, Barcelona, Beijing or Los Angeles.

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Only $159!
Payable in monthly installments.

The Grundig RK-709 is only $159 (plus $7.50 shipping/handling), payable in convenient monthly credit card installments. Includes deluxe carrying pouch, three "AA" batteries, and stereo headphones. One year warranty, 30 day money back guarantee. Order today.

Don't be confused by other 4, 5, 7, or 9 band radios. Grundig's RK-709 is today's best buy on a real 12 band receiver.

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47 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, Conn. 06857

Satisfaction guaranteed.

CALL TOLL-FREE: 1-800-367-4534
Ext. 623-452

Please send me _____ Grundig RK-709 World Band Receiver(s). For each receiver, charge 4 installments of $41.63* to my credit card:

☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA
☐ Discover ☐ Am. Ex.

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Signature _____
(All orders subject to acceptance.)

☐ I prefer not to pay by credit card and will pay by check. Enclosed is my check for $159* plus $7.50 shipping/handling, a total of $166.50 for each receiver.

*Any applicable sales tax will be billed with shipment.

Phone orders normally shipped next business day.
Higher shipping/handling outside U.S.

SHOULD CONGRESS DECLARE A MORATORIUM ON IMMIGRATION?

Rep. Bob Stump (R-Arizona)

YES

Helping others work, or even fight, for positive change in their homeland is a responsibility Americans have always accepted. Today, however, rather than work with people to build peace and prosperity in their own countries, our immigration policies have placed the emphasis on bringing people to live in this country. The message we are sending is that American jobs, opportunities and government services are available to the world.

In years past, immigration was responsive to the needs of America. Today, we have an immigration policy that is responsive to the needs and desires of people in other countries — one that pays virtually no heed to the interests and wishes of the American people.

Consequently, I have introduced legislation to declare a moratorium on immigration to the United States. Except for spouses and minor children of U.S. citizens and about 25,000 legitimate refugees, there is no compelling public-policy reason to continue a large-scale immigration that now allows nearly a million and half people to settle permanently every year. The costs associated with these unprecedented levels of immigration are truly staggering:

• Between 1988 and 1992, the number of illegal aliens collecting Medi-Cal (California's version of Medicaid) rose from 3,098 to 320,345 and now costs the state $800 million. At this rate of growth, the cost of Medi-Cal for illegal aliens alone will grow to $1.5 billion by 2003.

• New York estimates that legal and illegal immigration costs that state $5.6 billion annually.

• In Florida, Dade County estimates that it spent $24 million during the 1991-1992 school year to educate new immigrant students.

But the burden is not measured in dollars and cents alone. We are attempting to absorb new workers faster than our economy can create jobs. Never mind putting millions of unemployed Americans back to work, in 1992 our government actually authorized more new immigrants for employment than our economy created new jobs.

The first responsibility of U.S. immigration policy is to serve the interests of the American public. In the absence of any clear national interest to continue current policies, a moratorium on further immigration should be declared. □

Sen. Harry Reid (D- Nevada)

NO

Clearly, there is a growing dissatisfaction with our nation's immigration policy. The American people are demanding reforms that will restore order to a system they perceive to be out of control. Our open-door tradition is in danger of being shut down altogether.

I have introduced legislation to keep our doors open through a comprehensive reform of our immigration system. This legislation would cut off the unmanageable flood of untold millions of illegals and reduce the entry of legal immigrants to 325,000 a year, more than 50 percent less the current quotas.

I support our open-door tradition. I believe the continual flow of new people into our country is one of its strengths. However, for most of our history, our tradition opened the door for an average of 325,000 a year. I want to restore that traditional level.

In recent years, there has been an assault on our open-door policy. Our porous borders have overflowed with illegal immigrants, placing tremendous burdens on our environment, schools, roads, prisons, job markets and social programs. America's resources are being stretched to the limit.

The federal government must consider how we are going to house all the new arrivals, care for the additional sick, create enough new jobs, and provide the essential services each year required to sustain new populations the size of major cities like San Diego and Atlanta.

One-fourth of all prison inmates are not citizens of the United States, costing taxpayers about $20,000 a year per inmate. My Immigration Stabilization Act expands the list of felonies requiring exclusion and deportation of criminal aliens, and it expedites the deportation process.

History shows that uncontrolled new populations exploit natural resources for sustenance. We must protect our water supplies, parks, lakes and public lands from such degradation.

It is clear we need an overhaul of current immigration policy that will honor tradition with a sense of responsibility to future generations. The stability of our economy and the sanctity of our government hangs in the balance. If Congress and the President do not take responsible steps today, radical action will arise in a decade. □

YOUR OPINIONS COUNT, TOO

Congress is interested in constituent viewpoints. You may express your views by writing The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, or The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. Or, you may call the U.S. Senate at: (202) 224-3121; and the House at (202)225-3121.

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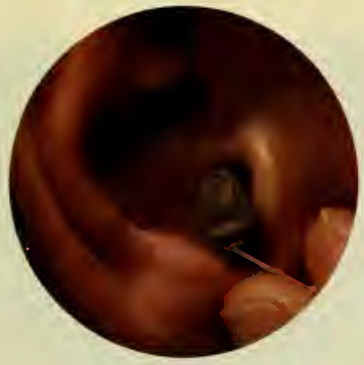

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So call today. All this valuable information is yours free when you dial 1-800-228-0138. Or, just return the attached card. When you do, you'll find out just how remarkable the new Mirage is.

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* Hearing aids won't restore natural hearing. Individual experiences may vary depending on proper fit, severity of hearing loss, accuracy of evaluation and ability to adapt to amplification. Only a certified Miracle-Ear representative can determine if Mirage is right for you.

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PR5612

Are you doing to lower your

MEVACOR® (Lovastatin) is a prescription drug and only your doctor or healthcare professional authorized to prescribe the product can determine whether you should take it.

Please be sure to read the important information on the back of this advertisement.

MERCK

everything you can
high cholesterol?

Tests prove MEVACOR helps lower cholesterol when diet and exercise aren't enough.

Tim has high blood pressure and his dad died of a heart attack.

All that and his high cholesterol put Tim at risk. High cholesterol is serious—especially if you have heart disease or 2 or more risk factors including: being a man over 44 or a woman over 54 or past menopause...having a family history of early heart problems...high blood pressure... diabetes...cigarette smoking...low HDL cholesterol.

Once he realized the risk, Tim tried hard to lower his cholesterol.

For 6 months, he said "no" to cake and "yes" to laps around the block. He kept his fingers crossed—the doctor had said diet and exercise alone don't always lower cholesterol enough. It could be genes or body chemistry; no one knows for sure.

His LDL cholesterol dropped, but not far enough.

Tim's LDL cholesterol (the "bad" kind that can build up in arteries) was still high. New national guidelines say people with 2 or more risk factors should have an LDL less than 130...100 or less if you've had a heart attack.

The doctor prescribed MEVACOR.

The doctor added MEVACOR to Tim's diet and exercise program, and his LDL really started to go down!

Ask Your Doctor About MEVACOR.

For a free booklet about cholesterol, call 1-800-850-0020.

Tests prove MEVACOR really works.

MEVACOR plus diet and exercise has been proven to lower LDL cholesterol better than diet and exercise alone. And, though it has not been shown that MEVACOR can prevent illness or death from heart disease, MEVACOR has helped many people reach their cholesterol goal and is generally well tolerated. Of course, not everyone gets the same results. And not everyone on MEVACOR reaches their cholesterol goal.

Is MEVACOR right for you?

Ask your doctor. MEVACOR should not be used by people with liver disease or possible liver problems, women who are breast-feeding, pregnant women, women of childbearing age unless highly unlikely to become pregnant, or people who are allergic to any of its ingredients. Because of possible serious drug interactions, tell your doctor about any medications you are taking.

There can be side effects.

It's recommended that your doctor perform routine blood tests to check liver enzymes before and during your treatment. Tell your doctor if you experience any unexplained muscle pain or weakness while taking MEVACOR, as this could be a sign of serious side effects. There are other side effects. Be sure to read the next page and discuss them with your doctor.

The most widely prescribed cholesterol-lowering medication in America.

MEVACOR is indicated as an addition to diet for many patients with high cholesterol when diet and exercise are inadequate.

MEVACOR®
(LOVASTATIN)

MEVACOR®
(LOVASTATIN)

PLEASE READ THIS SUMMARY CAREFULLY, AND THEN ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT *MEVACOR*. NO ADVERTISEMENT CAN PROVIDE ALL THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO PRESCRIBE A DRUG. THIS ADVERTISEMENT DOES NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF CAREFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR DOCTOR. ONLY YOUR DOCTOR HAS THE TRAINING TO WEIGH THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF A PRESCRIPTION DRUG FOR YOU.

WHEN *MEVACOR* SHOULD NOT BE USED: Some people should not take MEVACOR. Discuss this with your doctor.

Allergic Patients: MEVACOR should not be used by patients who are allergic to any of its ingredients. In addition to the active ingredient lovastatin, each tablet contains the following inactive ingredients: cellulose, lactose, magnesium stearate, and starch. Butylated hydroxyanisole (BHS) is added as a preservative. Tablets MEVACOR 10 mg also contain red ferric oxide and yellow ferric oxide. Tablets MEVACOR 20 mg also contain FD&C Blue 2. Tablets MEVACOR 40 mg also contain D&C Yellow 10 and FD&C Blue 2.

Patients with Liver Problems: MEVACOR should also not be used by patients with active liver disease or repeated blood test results indicating possible liver problems. (See WARNINGS.)

Women Who Are or May Become Pregnant: Pregnant women should not take MEVACOR because it may harm the fetus. **Women of childbearing age should not take MEVACOR unless it is highly unlikely that they will become pregnant.** If a woman does become pregnant while on MEVACOR, she should stop taking the drug and talk to her doctor at once.

Women Who Are Breast-feeding: Women who are breast-feeding should not take MEVACOR.

WARNINGS:

Liver:

About 2% of patients who took MEVACOR for at least one year in certain studies developed significantly elevated levels of liver enzymes, as determined by blood tests. (See SIDE EFFECTS.) Patients who had these increases usually had no symptoms. These elevations appear to become more likely as the dose increases. Liver disease with symptoms such as jaundice has been reported rarely at all dosages (see SIDE EFFECTS).

Your doctor should perform routine blood tests to check these enzymes before and during treatment with MEVACOR. The tests should occur every 6 weeks for the first 3 months, every 8 weeks for the rest of the year, and afterwards at about 6-month intervals. If your levels increase, your doctor should order more frequent tests. If your liver enzyme levels increase to an unusually high level, your doctor should discontinue your medication. If these elevations persist after the drug is discontinued, a liver biopsy may be necessary.

Tell your doctor about any liver disease you may have had in the past, and about how much alcohol you consume. In patients who have had liver disease or consume large amounts of alcohol, MEVACOR may be more likely to cause these side effects.

Muscle:

Tell your doctor right away if you experience any unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness at any time during treatment with MEVACOR, particularly if you have a fever or if you are generally not feeling well, so your doctor can decide if MEVACOR should be stopped.

Muscle Breakdown and Kidney Damage:

Rarely, patients taking MEVACOR can develop severe muscle breakdown or kidney damage. The risk of muscle breakdown is greater in patients taking certain other drugs along with MEVACOR, such as the lipid-lowering drug Lopid® (gemfibrozil), a fibrate, lipid-lowering doses of nicotinic acid (niacin), the antibiotic erythromycin, drugs that suppress the immune system (called immunosuppressive drugs, such as Sandimmune® [cyclosporine]), or azole derivative antifungal therapy (itraconazole). The risk of muscle breakdown is also greater in patients with kidney problems or diabetes.

Because kidney damage from severe muscle breakdown has been seen more commonly with the combination of MEVACOR/gemfibrozil, the possible benefits of combined therapy with MEVACOR/gemfibrozil usually do not outweigh the risks of severe muscle disease, muscle breakdown, or kidney damage. Also, the combined use of MEVACOR with other fibrate drugs should generally be avoided.

Because there are risks in combining therapy with MEVACOR with lipid-lowering doses of nicotinic acid (niacin) or with drugs that suppress the immune system, your doctor should carefully weigh the potential benefits and risks. He or she should also carefully monitor patients for any muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness, particularly during the initial months of therapy and if the dose of either drug is increased. Your doctor may also monitor the level of certain muscle enzymes, or of MEVACOR, in your body, but there is no assurance that such monitoring will prevent the occurrence of severe muscle disease.

Because of a risk of kidney failure with muscle breakdown in patients receiving cyclosporine, lovastatin should be temporarily discontinued if systemic azole derivative antifungal therapy is required. Patients not taking cyclosporine should be carefully monitored if systemic azole derivative antifungal therapy is required.

If you have conditions that can increase your risk of muscle breakdown, which in turn can cause kidney damage, your doctor should temporarily withhold or discontinue MEVACOR. Such conditions include severe infection, low blood pressure, major surgery, trauma, severe metabolic, endocrine, and electrolyte disorders, and uncontrolled seizures. Discuss this with your doctor who can explain these conditions to you.

Muscle Disease and Enzymes:

Temporary, mild elevations in muscle enzymes are commonly seen in patients treated with MEVACOR. However, in certain clinical studies, approximately 0.5% of patients (one in 200) also developed muscle disease, i.e., muscle pain or muscle weakness associated with significant elevations in muscle enzymes. Your doctor should discontinue therapy with MEVACOR if significant elevations in muscle enzymes occur or if muscle disease is diagnosed or suspected.

In studies, about 30% of patients on drugs that lower the immune system (including cyclosporine) and MEVACOR developed muscle disease; the corresponding percentages for patients on MEVACOR and gemfibrozil or niacin were approximately 5% and 2% respectively.

PRECAUTIONS:

Before starting treatment with MEVACOR® (Lovastatin), try to lower your cholesterol by other methods such as diet, exercise, and weight loss. Ask your doctor about how best to do this. Any other medical problems that can cause high cholesterol should also be treated.

Patients with the rare disorder known as homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia are less likely to benefit from MEVACOR and more likely to develop elevated levels of liver enzymes while taking MEVACOR. Your doctor can tell you if you have homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia.

Drug Interactions: Because of possible serious drug interactions, it is important to tell your doctor what other drugs you are taking, including those obtained without a prescription.

MEVACOR can interact with immunosuppressive drugs, gemfibrozil, niacin (nicotinic acid), erythromycin, and itraconazole. See WARNINGS, Muscle.

Some patients taking MEVACOR and coumarin anticoagulants (a type of blood thinner) such as Coumadin® (warfarin) have experienced bleeding and/or increased blood clotting time. Patients taking these medicines should have their blood tested before starting therapy with MEVACOR and should continue to be monitored frequently during early therapy. Once a stable clotting has been documented, clotting can be monitored at the intervals usually recommended for patients on coumarin anticoagulants alone. If the dose of MEVACOR is changed, the same procedure should be repeated.

Endocrine (Hormone) Function: MEVACOR and other drugs in this class may affect the production of certain hormones. Caution should be exercised if a drug used to lower cholesterol levels is administered to patients also receiving other drugs that may decrease the levels of activity of hormones (e.g., ketoconazole, spironolactone, cimetidine). If you are taking other drugs, tell your doctor.

Central Nervous System Toxicity; Cancer, Mutations, Impairment of Fertility: Like most prescription drugs, MEVACOR was required to be tested on animals before it was marketed for human use. Often these tests were designed to achieve higher drug concentrations than humans achieve at recommended dosing. In these tests, some of the animals had damage to nerves of the blood vessels in the central nervous system, including the brain. Others developed certain cancers or tumors of the liver or lung. Male dogs and rats sustained injuries to their reproductive systems. Your doctor can tell you more about how drugs are tested on animals and what the results of these tests mean about safety for you.

Pregnancy: Pregnant women should not take MEVACOR because it may harm the fetus.

There have been rare reports of birth defects in humans taking MEVACOR, including a report of an infant born with birth defects of the skeleton and digestive system. Therefore, women of childbearing age should not take MEVACOR unless it is highly unlikely that they will become pregnant. If a woman does become pregnant while on MEVACOR, she should stop taking the drug and talk to her doctor at once.

The active ingredient in MEVACOR has been shown to produce birth defects in the skeletons of mice and rats given 40 times the human dose or more. No such defects were seen, however, when rats were given eight times the human dose, when mice were given four times the human dose, or when rabbits were given three times the human dose.

Nursing Mothers: Drugs taken by a nursing woman may be present in her breast milk. Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, a woman taking MEVACOR should not breast-feed. (See WHEN *MEVACOR* SHOULD NOT BE USED.)

Pediatric Use: MEVACOR is not recommended for children or patients under 20 years of age because safety and effectiveness have not been established.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Like all prescription drugs, MEVACOR can cause side effects, and some of them are serious.

Most patients tolerate treatment with MEVACOR well. Side effects that do occur are usually mild and short-lived. In clinical studies with MEVACOR, less than 5 percent of patients dropped out because of side effects. The most common reason was significant increases in liver function tests.

Some of the side effects that have been reported with MEVACOR or related drugs are listed below. *This list is not complete; it does not give the frequency of these side effects which varied from study to study. Only your doctor can weigh the risks versus the benefits of any prescription drug for you. If MEVACOR is prescribed for you, be sure to ask your doctor about side effects at that time and any time you think you may be having a side effect.*

Digestive System: Constipation, diarrhea, upset stomach, gas, stomach pain/cramps, heartburn, nausea, acid regurgitation, dry mouth, vomiting, hepatitis, jaundice, fatty changes in the liver, and rarely, severe liver damage and failure, cirrhosis and liver cancer, loss of appetite, inflammation of the pancreas.

Muscle, Skeleton: Muscle cramps, aches, pain, and weakness, leg pain, shoulder pain, chest pain, joint pain, muscle breakdown. Muscle breakdown can be severe. See WARNINGS, Muscle.

Nervous System: Dizziness, headache, insomnia, tingling, memory loss, nerve disease, nerve palsies, anxiety, depression, tremor, vertigo, facial paralysis.

Skin: Rash, itching, hair loss, lumps, discoloration, changes to hair or nails, dryness of skin or mucous membranes. Causal relationship is unclear.

Senses: Blurred vision, altered taste sensation, eye irritation, progression of cataracts, eye muscle weakness, impairment of eye movement.

Hypersensitivity (Allergic) Reactions: On rare occasions, a wide variety of symptoms have been reported to occur either alone or together in groups (referred to as a syndrome) that appeared to be based on allergic-type reactions, which may rarely be fatal. These have included one or more of the following features: a severe generalized reaction that may include shortness of breath, wheezing, digestive symptoms, and low blood pressure and even shock; an allergic reaction with swelling of the face, lips, tongue and/or throat with difficulty in swallowing or breathing; symptoms mimicking lupus (a disorder in which a person's immune system may attack parts of his or her own body); severe muscle and blood vessel inflammation; bruises; various disorders of blood cells (that could result in anemia, infection, or blood clotting problems) or abnormal blood tests; inflamed or painful joints; hives; fatigue and weakness; sensitivity to sunlight; fever; chills; flushing; difficulty breathing; and severe skin disorders that vary from a rash to a serious burn-like shedding of skin all over the body, including mucous membranes such as the lining of the mouth.

Other: Chest pain, edema (swelling), loss of sexual desire, breast enlargement, impotence.

Laboratory Tests: Liver function test abnormalities including elevated transaminases, alkaline phosphatase and bilirubin, rare reports of thyroid function abnormalities.

Note: This summary provides important information about MEVACOR. If you would like more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist to let you read the professional labeling and then discuss it with them.

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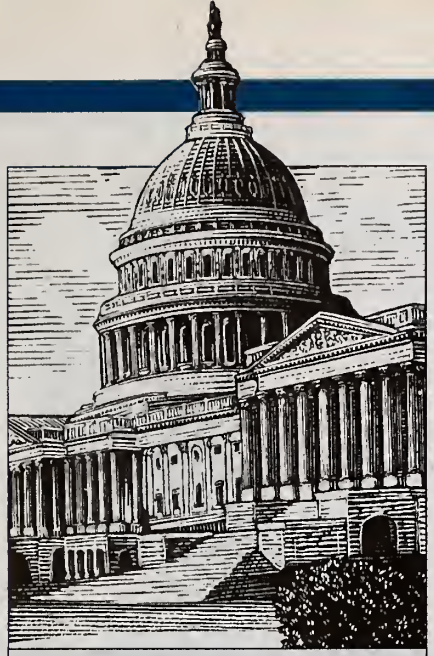


WASHINGTON WATCH

By Cliff Kincaid

Drafting Women

The Family Research Council is calling for congressional hearings into whether the expansion of combat roles for women threatens the longstanding female exemption from the draft. According to retired Army Lt.Col. Robert Maginnis, a policy analyst with the council, the odds are likely that the courts will order women included in any future draft because the Clinton administration has already opened more than 200,000 positions to women, covering 80 percent of the available occupations in the military.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1981 that because women were not eligible for combat, they were not required to register with selective service. Though women are still ineligible for ground combat assignments, Maginnis argues that the ending of most combat exemptions "may force the court to eliminate the last barrier to drafting women."

Abortion Wars

The Catholic Church has opened another front in the battle against abortion. Having failed to stop a National Institutes of Health (NIH) panel from endorsing federal funding of human embryo research, the church is now expected to lobby Congress for hearings on the issue. The NIH decision, announced in late September, came despite written protests from more than 55,000 people. An NIH spokesman acknowledged the overwhelming religious response against the research.

Author Suzanne Rini, in material prepared for the American Life League, fears the experiments could lead to human cloning, genetic engineering of people, and the creation of chimeras — combinations of human and animal cells. The Michael Fund, a Pittsburgh-based group, tried to shut down the NIH panel through a lawsuit charging that it was stacked with members in favor of human embryo research and therefore in violation of federal law.

Drug Testing

A revolutionary breakthrough in drug-testing technology for police could also be suitable for wide-spread testing in the workplace. A small hand-held test, developed by Drug Screening Systems of Blackwood, N.J., costs less than $10 and was used recently by police in Tennessee to determine that 88 out of 150 motorists stopped for reckless driving were positive for cocaine, marijuana or both. Results are available in less than 10 minutes.

Washington-based Cliff Kincaid writes for Human Events *and other publications.*

Questionable Question

Senators Trent Lott of Mississippi and Slade Gorton of Washington are investigating why 300 Marines at the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base, Calif., were surveyed if they could shoot Americans as part of a "non-traditional" U.N. mission. Anti-gun control groups were outraged because the question concerned U.S. troops opening fire on U.S. citizens "who refuse or resist confiscation of firearms banned by the U.S. government." The question was part of a student research project conducted under the guidance of Naval Postgraduate School faculty. The results are due in December.

China Syndrome

Still smarting from the September controversy over the Cairo population conference, the United Nations is bracing for another firestorm — the 1995 UN Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing. This time, however, the Clinton administration may find itself agreeing with UN critics. The problem: Communist China's one child per family policy and the mania for baby boys has resulted in widespread abortions of female fetuses and even the murder of young girls.

Meanwhile, *New York Times* columnist A. M. Rosenthal is leading a charge for a citizen boycott of Chinese products, saying that cutting into Beijing's $23 billion annual trade surplus with the United States is the only way to press China into respecting human rights.

At the same time, Rep. Frank Wolf of Virginia persists in demanding an apology from Secretary of Defense William Perry for giving General Xu Huizi, deputy chief of staff of the People's Liberation Army, "the red carpet treatment" during his visit to the United States. Xu was army deputy chief of staff when thousands of Chinese troops attacked the demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square five years ago.

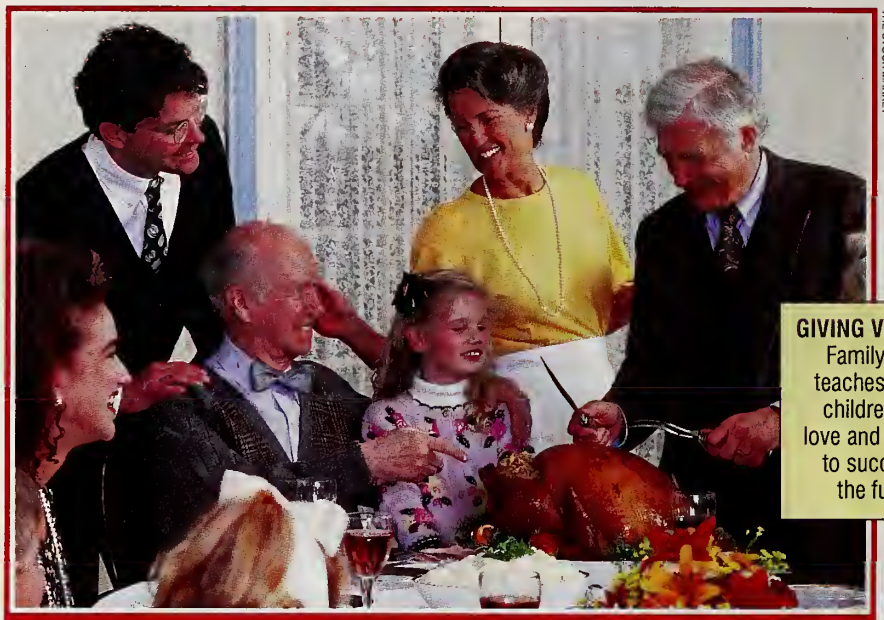
Military Pay

Faced with growing concern over military families on food stamps, the White House is expected to endorse the creation of a special panel to study the issue of pay raises for the military.

The panel and study, supported by Rep. Elton Gallegly of California and other House Republicans, could help get the White House out from under its own increasingly unpopular proposals to hold down all federal salaries at home while giving 2,500 former Soviet Red Army officers $25,000 housing vouchers to move from the Baltics to Russia. The panel would have six months to investigate and offer recommendations to Congress.

Voiceless Voice

Soviet defector Arkady Shevchenko, the former Soviet ambassador to the United States, opposes cuts in Voice of America (VOA) programming, arguing that the broadcasting agency will be desperately needed in "the likely event of a new coup, revolt or social explosion" in the former Soviet Union. If such an event occurs, he says, millions of Russians will be denied objective news, commentary and analysis about events that shape their lives. The cuts in programming and personnel at VOA are part of a reorganization plan to consolidate VOA, Radio Free Europe and Radio Free Liberty. □



THE STOCK MARKET

GIVING VALUES— Family Week teaches us that children need love and attention to succeed in the future.

NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK

TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW

This day-by-day guide offers you and your Legion Post a variety of ways to recognize and celebrate the importance of the American family.

"FAMILIES are our nation's lifeblood and strength," said President Bill Clinton. That's what former high school teacher Sam Wiley realized when he created National Family Week.

By proclamation of the President of the United States, National Family Week will be celebrated the week of Nov. 20-26 this year. "A good, stable family provides security for children, and families just don't get enough recognition," says Wiley.

In 1970, Wiley had an idea to honor American families with a week of tribute. Supported by The American Legion, he soon won allies in Congress, including Rep. John T. Myers of Indiana and Sen. Quentin Burdick of North Dakota.

Momentum grew behind Wiley's campaign for a National Family Week as 31 states issued Family Week proclamations in 1971. As a result, President Richard Nixon proclaimed the week of Nov. 19, 1972 as the first National Family Week. It has been an annual event since 1976, and resolutions are still issued every two years by the Legion and by individual states each year to continue this special tribute to the American family.

"Your Legion Post should help celebrate the family by sponsoring National Family Week," says National Commander William M. Detweiler.

Here are some ways to observe National Family Week:

Sunday (Religious Day): Attend church with your family and teach your family about the meaning and importance of religion. The family that prays together, stays together.

Monday (Home Day): Let your children make dinner, do laundry, clean their rooms and generally give mom and dad a break.

Tuesday (Education Day): Discuss how meaningful education has been in your life and how it can change theirs. Consider visiting your child's school.

Wednesday (Community Day): Teach community values and how they relate to the family. Visit nursing home residents, orphans and other community members who have no families or relatives.

Thursday (Thanksgiving Day): As you carve the turkey and enjoy seconds on the pumpkin pie, explain to your children what they should be thankful for.

Friday (Nature Day): Talk with your children about respecting nature, and explain how trees and animals are significant to the environment.

Saturday (Recreation Day or Religious Day): Set aside time for leisure activities the entire family can enjoy. If it is your day for religious observance, attend services.

There are many ways Posts can encourage participation in Family Week. Family Service America, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening families, offers these suggestions:

- **Name a community family of the year.** Honor the family you have selected based on your Post's criteria. Also hold special events at your Post during the week and encourage Legion families to participate.
- **Lend a helping hand.** Do things to help less fortunate members of your community who may not have families or homes.
- **Share a family dinner.** Plan a dinner to celebrate a milestone, such as an anniversary, and bring families together at your Post.
- **Support your local schools.** Sponsor a poster, essay, or photo contest for an area school. Contact local merchants who may be interested in donating prizes for the contest.
- **Work with houses of worship.** Speak with ministers, priests, and rabbis about commemorating National Family Week and ask them to publicize the observance in their sermons.
- **Sponsor a fund-raiser.** Organize a community walk or bike ride, and end the event with a family picnic.
- **Organize a family video contest.** Gather home videos in the community

Please turn to page 78

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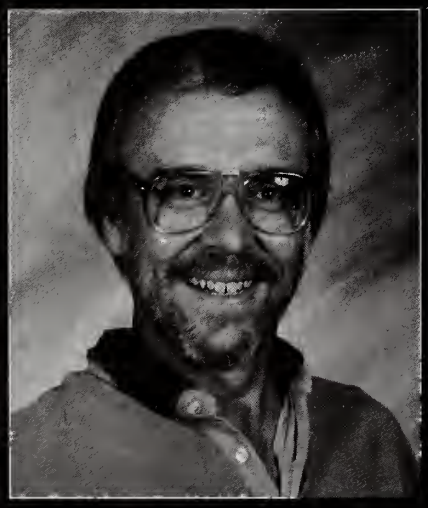

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MIAMI SHAKES, RATTLES, ROLLS TO VICTORY

POST 346 WINS—Miami's nine runs and flawless fielding shutout Post 299 of Chino, Calif.

CHANTING incessantly and shaking aluminum cans with pennies inside, the highly spirited fans of Post 346, Miami, Fla., cheered their underdog team on to an easy 9-0 championship victory over Chino, Calif., at the 1994 American Legion World Series in Boyertown, Pa.

Earlier in the double-elimination tournament held Aug. 26-30, the Chino hitting machine of Post 299 had pounded Miami, 19-9 and also outscored opponents 36-14 in its first three games.

But the championship game — aired over ESPN TV Sept. 1 — belonged only to Miami and its fans, whose roars of approval shook the stands every time Post 346 got a hit or made a sparkling play on the field.

Star of the game and the tournament was Miami pitcher Fernando Rodriguez, who was named the American Legion Player of the Year. The 19-year-old scattered five hits, while striking out six and walking one batter in the final game. Chino never had more than one man on base in any inning, and its two chances to score were cut down at the plate.

Rodriguez helped his own cause along in the third inning by slamming his first homerun ever in organized competition. But he had plenty of help from his teammates who hammered out 13 hits and played errorless ball.

Rodriguez was 4-0 in tournament play and threw 32½ innings of scoreless ball throughout regional and World Series play.

"I asked Rodriguez 'If we score one run, can you win it?' said Miami manager Carlos Hernandez Sr. "He said he could and sure enough, he did. I put the pressure on him, and he came through, just like all season. He just pitched great."

Rodriguez gave credit to his battery mate, catcher Marc Suarez. "I just threw what he called for, and I was putting the ball over the corners,' said a jubilant Rodriquez after the game.

MVP HUG—*Player of the Year Fernando Rodriguez is congratulated after the final game by his mother, Rita.*

World Series teams and records: Post 346, Miami, Fla. (5-1); Post 299, Chino, Calif. (3-2); Post 136, Salem, Ore. (3-2); Post 325, Blissfield, Mich. (2-2); Post 1, Omaha, Neb. (1-2); Post 20, Russellville, Ark. (0-2); and Post 54, Bedford, Va. (0-2).

Individual awards:

- George W. Rulon Player of the Year Award and a $2,000 Gatorade scholarship — Fernando Rodriguez, Post 346, Miami, Fla.
- James F. Daniel Sportsmanship Award — Eric Gomez, Post 299, Chino, Calif.
- Irvin L. "Click" Cower RBI Award (most RBIs) — Frank Hinojosa, Post 299, Chino, Calif., (24).
- Rawlings Big Stick Award (most total bases) — Esteban Barrios, Post 346, Miami, Fla. (35).
- James Williams Leadership Award — Carlos Hernandez Sr. and Carlos Hernandez Jr., Post 346, Miami, Fla.
- Louisville Slugger Batting Award (best batting average) — Bob Barth Jr., Post 72, Brooklawn, N.J. (.438).
- Bob Feller Pitching Award (most strikeouts) — Lance Franks, Post 20, Russellville, Ark. (30). □

PHOTOS BY JOHN E. SIMON

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VETERANS DAY

A Celebration for All Ages

By Les Brindley

ON AN AGE when many Americans believe that patriotism has fallen out of fashion and the sacrifices made by veterans all but forgotten, a group of Texas Legionnaires are proving that — in one town at least — there's still plenty of heart in the heartland.

The town: Mineral Wells. Population: 14,870. The location: west of Fort Worth, east of the Brazos and deep in the heart of Texas.

There, each year at 11 a.m. on the 11th day of November, months of planning and coordination between American Legion Post 75 and the Mineral Wells Independent School District take shape as 2,000 elementary school kids file into the high school stadium along with hundreds of families. They are there to honor the town's veterans and teach the children of the sacrifices made in defense of their country. It is a gathering that binds generations.

As they step off the buses, each child is given a small U.S. Flag, courtesy of Post 75. Escorted by high school volunteers, they take their seats in the grandstand, flags in hand.

They are ready for the fun of watching older students in the band, choir and drill teams perform patriotic songs. They are ready to see the third graders work magic with a grounded parachute — turning it now into a mushroom, now into a mountain, now into a giant spider. They are also ready for the communal warmth of joining in prayer and song.

Attentive beyond their years, they listen to guest speakers outline the importance of Veterans Day and eagerly await the boom of Post 75's ceremonial cannon — not loud enough perhaps to be heard round the world, but certainly up to the task of commanding little hands to cover ears.

"I was impressed," said Waggoner Carr, last year's guest speaker and past Texas American Legion Department Commander. "They filled the stadium up for that small town."

Carr, former speaker of the state House of Representatives and state Attorney General, is now a private attorney. "The whole community spirit is contagious," he said. "I attribute it to the respect Post 75 has in Mineral Wells and the surrounding area."

Stephanie Wilson was equally impressed. A 1994 Mineral Wells High School graduate now attending Angelo State University, she has witnessed the Veterans Day ceremony as both grade-school student and volunteer high-school chaperon. "I remember going when I was young," she says. "It was such a big deal to go and be able to be there."

As a chaperon, she has seen the same excitement in her little charges. "They have this look on their faces," Wilson says. "They listen, they really want to know what's going on."

She believes the event is not only good for the children, but for the whole town as well.

Carla Narcomey agrees. "We say the Pledge of Allegiance every day at our school," says the grade-school physical education teacher, who also choreographs and leads the parachute

WELL IN HAND—*Post 75 organizers and their guests raise their arms—and voices—in song as the kids sing "God Bless the U.S.A."*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFF SHAW / MERCURY PICTURES?

PATRIOTISM, TEXAS-STYLE—Photos above, left to right: the school band; a parachute drill team; Legion-donated flags. Photos below and immediate left: The Wranglerettes help celebrate Veterans Day in Mineral Wells for Todd Arndt, and daughter, Alexa.

routine at the observance. "But this just gives more emphasis on what the Flag stands for."

The Rev. Gary Lindley attended the Veterans Day observance for the first time last year when he was asked to provide the spiritual message. "I was moved to tears to see all of those kids and having them experience the pride of their nation. I've served in Fort Worth and larger communities and have never seen anything like it before," he says. "I commend the

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Freelancer Les Brindley wrote "Three Million Good Neighbors" in the September issue.

INTERVIEW
JOSEPH GOULDEN

THE PRESS'S PREJUDICES

The cultural elite in television, newspapers and magazines are distorting and clouding the issues with their one-sided news coverage, says this media watchdog.

JOSEPH Goulden, media analysis director at Accuracy in Media (AIM), predicts that magazines' liberal leanings will spell their death by making them increasingly irrelevant to mainstream America. AIM has been a thorn in the mainstream media's side ever since it was founded in 1969 to combat the liberal bias it sees infecting the nation's airwaves, newspapers and magazines.

The self-described media watchdog once so infuriated *Washington Post* editor Ben Bradlee that he labeled AIM founder and chairman Reed Irvine a "miserable, carping, retromingent vigilante." To AIM, that was high praise indeed, coming from a newspaper that it sees as one of the standard bearers of left-wing bias.

Goulden — a winner of a 1971 National Magazine Award and the author of 16 books — is dismayed by the prejudices he thinks distort major magazines' coverage of issues like gay rights and the environment. Goulden was interviewed by Lorne Manly of *Folio:* magazine, from which this is reprinted with permission.

QUESTION: In your book on *The Saturday Evening Post,* you discussed the changes in American society that contributed to that magazine's death in the 1960s. What effects are today's trends having on American magazines and journalism?

JOSEPH GOULDEN: I hate to say this because I've admired both *Time* and *Newsweek* over the years, but I think they are becoming largely irrelevant. We pay very little attention to them at the office because they simply are not that influential anymore. The networks are what run the media in America right now.

The newsweeklies have become very featureish in their approach, and the writing is very good. But are you going to pay $40 a year to read a bunch of opinions when you already have the same on the TV talk shows and the op-ed pages of the newspaper? *Time* used to be known as an organization that would break big stories; I can't remember anything of that nature recently.

Q. But people have been writing the epitaphs for the newsweeklies for years and they haven't died yet.

A. I don't want to be pessimistic, but they are putting life-support machinery on a dying subject. The heart can take only so many shots of adrenaline before it gives up. Time Warner, of course, can play theirs a long way — it's an advertising medium for them as well, for promoting Little Brown & Co. books and Warner Brothers' movies.

But I think that, as a force in American journalism, their day is gone. The magazines that are known for their opinions — The *Nation, The Progressive* —are known because of the personality of an editor and a certain political view that they espouse. *U.S. News & World Report* has carved out more of a niche with its focus on news you can use and personal finance.

Q. Do you think all magazines are doomed to the same irrelevance that you predict for *Time* and *Newsweek?*

A. I think the reader's attention is fragmented — we have so many sources of information — and I think more and more people are looking for specialized magazines. I'll give you an example:

I'm a stock-car racing nut. Now if *The New York Times* or *The Washington Post* give two paragraphs to a stock-car race, that's a big event. So, I subscribe to a magazine that covers NASCAR racing, *Winston Cup Scene.* I go through every damn page of it, including the ads.

I also happen to have an interest in mercenary warfare, tourism and low-intensity conflict. So, I read *Soldier of Fortune.* They report on it at a depth you don't find anywhere else. I can't see myself spending a comparable amount of time with *Time* just to see what [chief political correspondent] Michael Kramer happens to think.

JON GOELL

Q. If you were the editor *of Time,* where would you take the magazine?

A. I would really shake the reader down to his socks. Give him something that he is not finding somewhere else — and I don't mean just a sensational story. I mean the sort of reporting that *60 Minutes* does. Or I would find a subject that really turns people on — makes them mad, makes them excited.

Q. What magazines do you think do that today?

A. Victor Navasky of *The Nation* occasionally shakes up his readership. The magazine has a lot of wit to it. I think *Vanity Fair* under Tina Brown did a good job of shaking up people.

Q. With many cities in the United States now served only by one major daily, do you think city and regional magazines can become more influential?

A. *Texas Monthly*, I think, has long been one of the best in the genre. *Philadelphia Magazine* used to cover stories about which journalists would say, "Oh, boy, everybody knows about this." But they would go in and spend time doing local stories and they'd do it very well — subjects like corruption in the city government.

The Washingtonian simply doesn't do anything of note. You pick it up and you get a story about the 101 best ways to peel artichokes. It has turned into a service magazine. I don't need to read it. I know where to buy spaghetti sauce.

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HIGHLIGHTS

Joseph Goulden On...

Built-in bias: *"On certain issues, opposing voices don't get heard. People who oppose abortion are pariahs to certain journalists. They are depicted as raving kooks."*

Journalists: *"I fear that every young reporter wants to find dirt under every carpet. A seminar for investigative reporters and editors had a workshop on 'How to Find Corruption in Your Little League.' This is absurdity."*

News magazines: *"They are becoming irrelevant. The networks are what run the media in America right now."*

Politics: *"I don't want a conservative press; I don't want a liberal press. I just want an objective press where a citizen can make up his own mind."*

REWRITING ENOLA GAY'S HISTORY

The plane that dropped the Bomb now is the center of a furious debate.

By Brian D. Smith

ON AUG. 6, 1945, an American B-29 slipped into Japanese air space and unleashed the most powerful force the world had ever known. History's first atomic bomb leveled the city of Hiroshima, killing some 80,000 people and, within days of the dropping of a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, abruptly ending the slaughter of World War II.

Nearly 50 years later, the same U.S. veterans who once saved their nation from a foreign enemy find themselves grappling with an entity supported by their own government: the Smithsonian Institution.

The current conflict stems from an exhibition scheduled to open next May at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. The exhibit, titled "The Last Act: The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II," features the story of the Enola Gay, the B-29 that dropped America's first atomic bomb. The debate focuses on the broader military, diplomatic and social contexts of President Truman's decision to use the weapon.

America's veterans have gone to war again — this time with pens, keyboards and telephones — in an effort to ensure that the history they created in the 1940s won't be rewritten in the 1990s.

And The American Legion again is on the front lines in behalf of veterans.

Newly elected National Commander William M. Detweiler, armed with a mandate from the 76th annual National Convention, conducted a laborious line-by-line review of the script in conference with the director of the National Air and Space Museum and the exhibit's curators. He and Legion officials now are reviewing all related materials.

THE Commander said specific instances of anti-American bias, portrayal of the Japanese as victims of American aggression, and disproportionate displays of suffering by Japanese civilians have been eliminated. But, he said, addressing the core issue that underlies The American Legion's concerns will be far more difficult.

"More than anything else, our disagreements center on the estimate of numbers of lives saved by the use of atomic weapons in 1945," Detweiler told reporters in Washington. "Was it 30,000 or was it 500,000 potential

Brian Smith is senior editor of Indianapolis Monthly *magazine. Researcher Marcella Fleming contributed to this article.*

ATOM POWER—Col. Paul W. Tibbets Jr. piloted the Enola Gay (named after his mother) over Hiroshima. "We made the world a better place," he says. See page 28.

invasion casualties? Does it matter? To the museum and historians, it seems to be of great importance in determining the morality of President Truman's decision.

"To The American Legion it matters less, if at all. The use of the weapon against a brutal and ruthless aggressor to save 30,000 American lives was as morally justifiable as to use it to save 500,000 lives.

"It is our view that for any government with the means to end the slaughter on both sides — and I repeat, both sides — not to use those means would be morally indefensible."

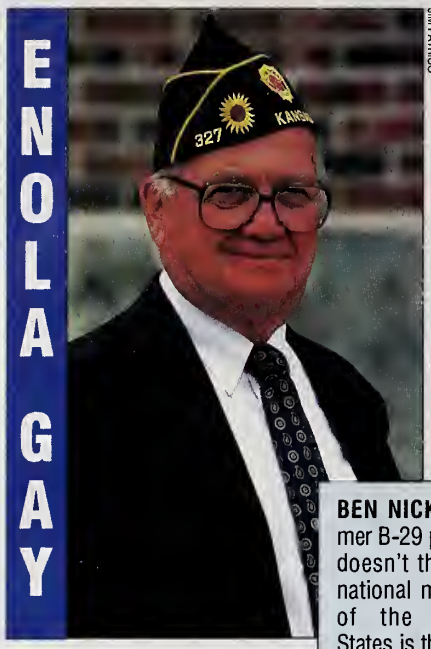
With the daunting task of reviewing more than 500 pages of text and exhibits, a question many veterans are asking is "how did it come to this?"

The responsibility lies with the

HISTORIC PIECES—Cut up and in storage, the giant B-29, above, awaits display at the Smithsonian Institution, right.

PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY MURPHY

ENOLA GAY



JIM PATRICO

BEN NICKS, former B-29 pilot: He doesn't think the national museum of the United States is the place to discuss the morality of atomic bombing.

curators of the exhibit, whose prose in some instances belies a philosophical bent. In other areas, the script assumes an unreasonably high level of understanding of the history of World War II on the part of visitors. In still other areas, it ignores the human aspect of men at war.

The firestorm was ignited by such blunders and misstatements in the original script as:

• Stating, "For most Americans, this war was fundamentally different than the one waged against German and Italy — it was a war of vengeance; for most Japanese, it was a war to defend their unique culture against Western Imperialism."

• Summarizing the attack on Pearl Harbor in half a sentence, with far more space being devoted to anti-Asian racism in the United States and to America's devastating strategic bombing campaign in Tokyo.

• Summarizing in only six sentences Japan's innumerable misdeeds between 1931 and 1941, while devoting far greater space to one of the Smithsonian's pet topics, strategic bombing — particularly by the United States.

• Portraying Japan as a nation of defenders rather than aggressors: "The Japanese people waited in their island fortress, prepared to repulse the enemy on the beaches. But their deteriorating situation was increasingly undermining their power to resist."

• Ignoring the sacrifices of U.S. citizens. The script said Americans grew weary of war because "they longed for...the realization of their deferred dreams of material prosperity."

• Using a preponderance of quotations that made the Japanese sound heroic and the Americans sound barbaric. Typical was the contrast between the words of a kamikaze pilot: "Without regard for life or name, a samurai will defend his homeland" and those of a U.S. Army general: "We'll...set the paper cities of Japan on fire. There won't be any hesitation about bombing civilians."

• Attributing prolonging of the war to President Truman because he did not mention the Emperor when he responded to Japanese efforts for a conditional surrender.

While these and similar statements have been removed from the latest revision, dated Aug. 31, 1994, and many more remain to be excised, thousands of WWII veterans have seen enough.

Outraged that the historic B-29 superfortress, Enola Gay, has been linked to such a display, one veterans group, the Committee for Restoration and Display of the Enola Gay, has collected some 10,000 signatures on a petition requesting that the Smithsonian either exhibit the aircraft "proudly and patriotically" or give it to a museum that will.

In a written response, Martin Harwit, director of the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) said, "I am saddened that veterans have seen it necessary to circulate a petition asking the museum to display the Enola Gay 'in a patriotic manner'.... Do veterans really suspect that the National Air and Space Museum is an unpatriotic institution or would opt for an apologetic exhibition?"

In a word, yes. "We believe the Smithsonian wants to use the Enola Gay as a springboard to discuss the morality of atomic bombing and strategic bombing," says Ben Nicks of Shawnee, Kan., a former B-29 pilot. "And we don't think the national museum of the United States, funded by the United States, is the place to discuss this question."

The American Legion agreed with that assessment. In an Aug. 12 letter, then-National Commander Bruce Thiesen told President Bill Clinton

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'OUR JOB WAS TO WIN.'

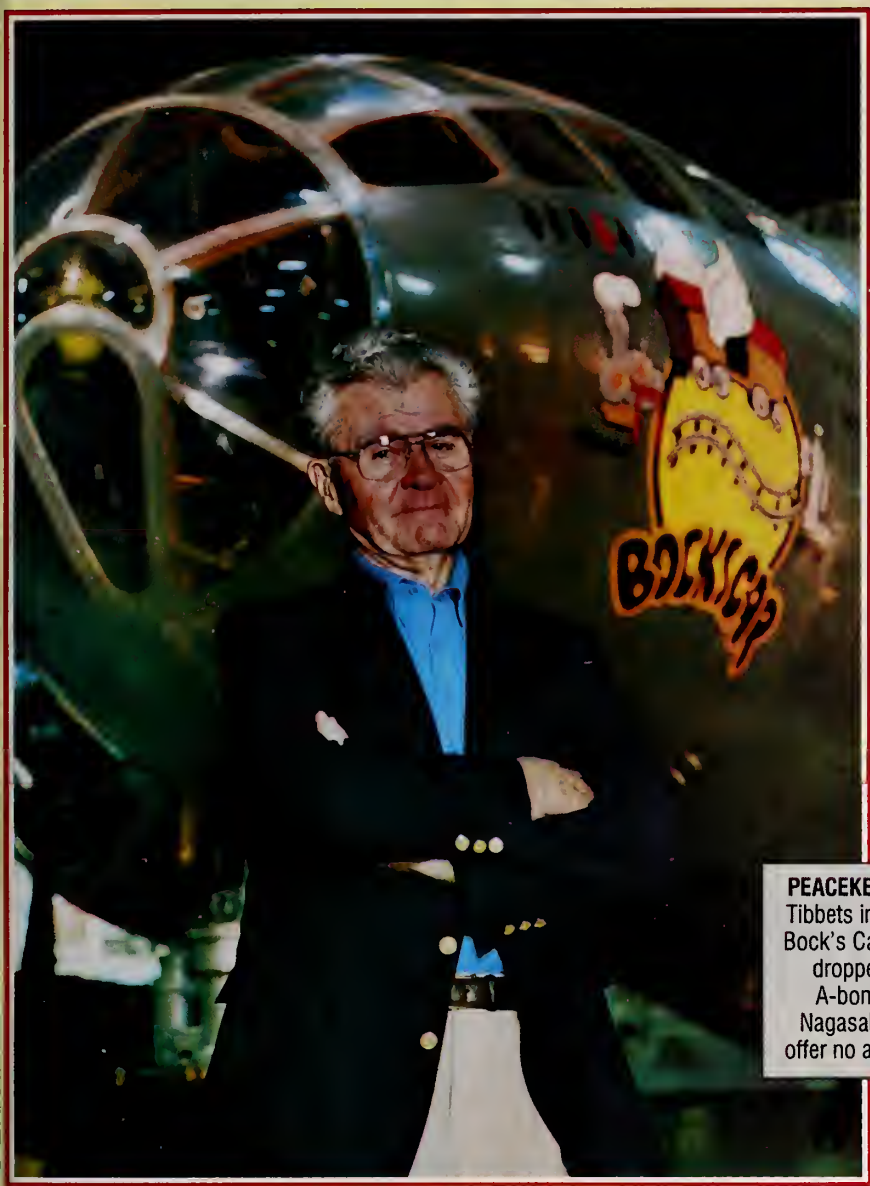
By Paul W. Tibbets Jr.

Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbets Jr. was the command pilot of the 509th Composite Bomb Group, which dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima in August 1945. These are excerpts from remarks he made at Suitland, Md., in June upon receiving the Freedom Award from the Air Force Sergeants Association.

A NUMBER of people and veterans' groups have asked me to comment on the subject of the Enola Gay, the care afforded her by the Smithsonian Institution and the institution's treatment of the atomic missions.

From my point of view, the matter has been politicized, and as a result, mishandled. Those whose business it is to create, mold, manipulate and utilize public opinion have done so as a matter of self-serving interest. Consequently, history has been denigrated. The Enola Gay has been miscast and a group of valiant Americans have had their role in history treated shamefully.

I am an airman, a pilot. In 1945, I was wearing the uniform of the U.S. Army Air Forces and following the orders of our commander-in-chief. I recruited, trained and led the members of the 509th Composite Bomb Group. We had a mission.



PEACEKEEPER— Tibbets in front of Bock's Car, which dropped the A-bomb on Nagasaki: "We offer no apology."

Quite simply, that mission was to deliver special weapons that would hopefully bring about the end of World War II.

As for the missions flown against Japan on the 6th and 9th of August, 1945, I would remind you, we were at war. Our job was to win. Once the targets were named and presidential approval received, we were to deliver the weapons as expeditiously as possible, consistent with good tactics. The objective was to stop the fighting, thereby saving further loss of life on both sides. The urgency of the situation demanded that we use the weapons first before the technology could be used against us. During the course of the half century that has elapsed since the use of the atomic weapons, many scribes have chronicled the flight of the Enola Gay with nothing but descriptions of the destructive nature of our atomic weapons. Few such narratives have been objective.

Indeed, I suggest to you that few have ever attempted to discuss the missions of August 6th and August 9th, 1945, *in the context of the times*.

Simply stated, the Enola Gay and the 509th Composite Bomb Group have been denied a historically correct representation to the public. Most writers have looked to the ashes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to find answers for the use of those atomic weapons. The real answers lay in thousands of graves from Pearl Harbor to Normandy.

The actual use of the weapons as ordered by the President of the United States was believed to be the quickest and least costly (in terms of lives lost) way to stop the killing. I carried out those orders with the loyal support of the men of the 509th Composite Bomb Group and the U.S. military at large. Our sworn duty was to God, country and victory.

Today, there is a debate on how to present the Enola Gay and the use of the atom bombs to the American public and the world at large. I have had many requests — many appeals — to openly voice my opinions as to the Smithsonian's proposal and depiction of these realities.

Consequently, I suggest that the Enola Gay be preserved and displayed properly — and alone, for all the world to see. She should be presented as a peacekeeper and as the harbinger of a cold war kept from going "hot." The Enola Gay and her sister ship, Bock's Car, should be remembered in honor of the scientists who harnessed the power of the atom for the *good* of mankind. The talents and skills of those men and women gave us the means to use, regulate and control atomic energy. Such notable positive contributions are worthy of Smithsonian recognition.

The Enola Gay has become a symbol to different groups for one reason or another. I suggest that she be preserved and given her place *in the context of the times* in which she flew.

For decades she has been relegated to a storage facility. Her place in history has been dealt with unfairly by those who decry the inhumanity of the August 6th mission. *There is no humanity in warfare.* The job of the combatants, the families, the diplomats and factory workers is to win.

For decades the Enola Gay has been in pieces. During this same period the subject of the atomic missions has provoked a flood of emotions. Virtually each and every narration of the events surrounding the flight of the Enola Gay has delved into the horrors

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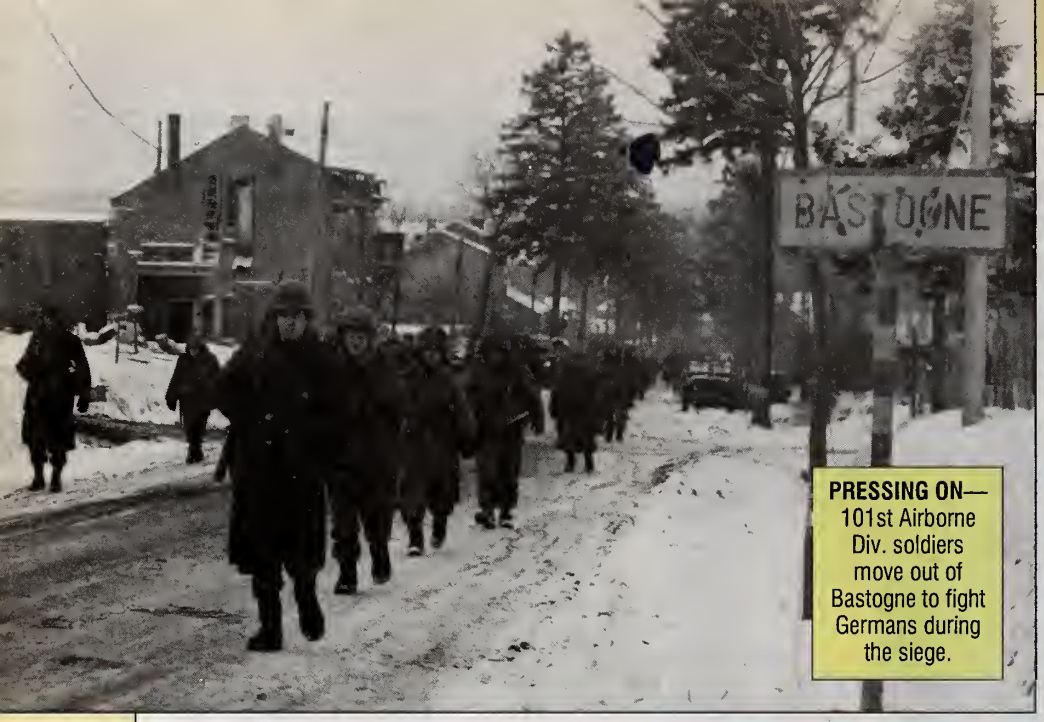


PRESSING ON— 101st Airborne Div. soldiers move out of Bastogne to fight Germans during the siege.

The Battle Of The Bulge

'They have us surrounded, the poor bastards!'

Though surprised and encircled, American forces stopped Hitler's fierce counterattack.

By Sid Moody

WORLD WAR II BATTLE REPORTS

IT WAS so quiet, so eerily quiet, they called it "The Ghost Front."

It ran for 80 miles through the Hansel and Gretel forest of the Ardennes in eastern Belgium and Luxembourg. The fighting was elsewhere in December 1944. Only a thin line of six U.S. divisions, three of them green as shamrocks, stood sentinel. War seemed so remote that German soldiers regularly snuck across to visit relatives behind the American lines.

Artillery Capt. Henry Reath was with the 99th Div., which was fresh to the war and had been at the front only a week. When Reath sought out one of his forward observers, he found him in the second floor of a vacation villa in Losheim just over the border in Germany. The observer was seated in an armchair keeping lookout through a picture window.

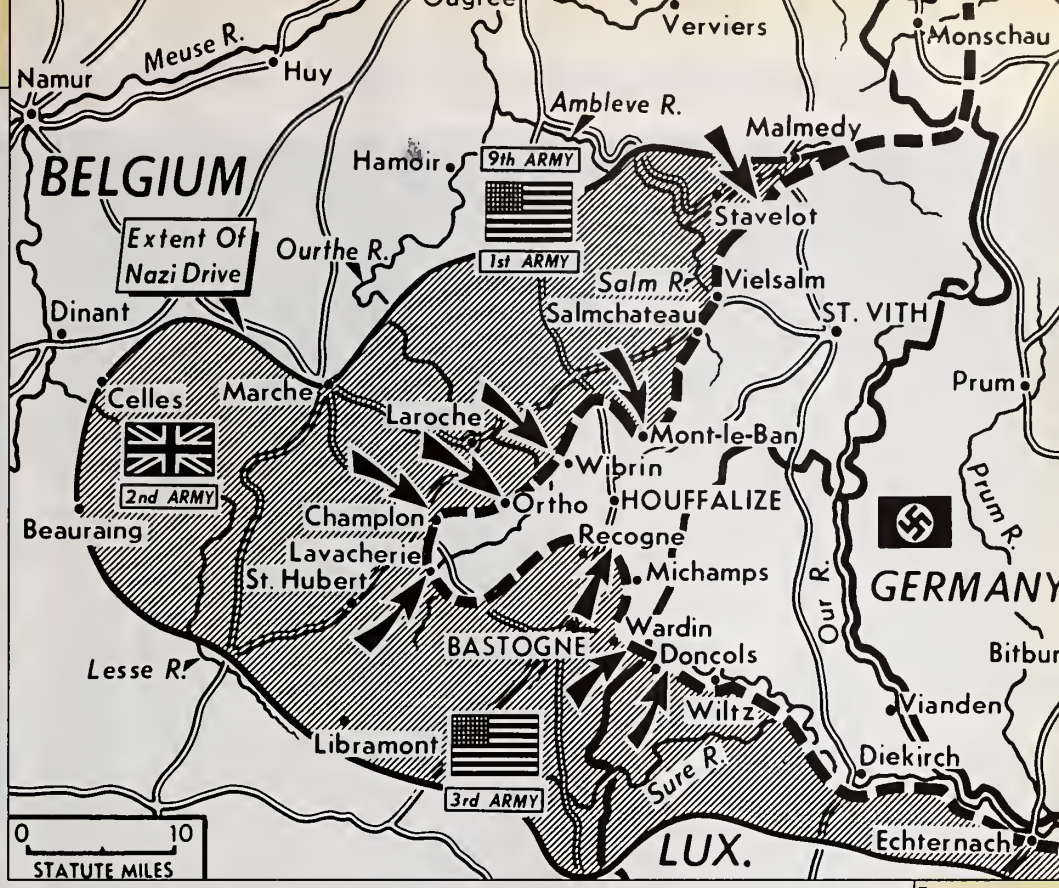
But it was those same Ardennes — considered impenetrable to modern armor by the French — that Hitler stormed through in 1940, conquering France in a blitzkrieg and sending the British Expeditionary Force in flight from Dunkirk. Now Hitler was planning to do it again.

Germany at long last seemed beaten. The Allies were at her borders on the West, the Russians on the East. Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allies, bet Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery, head of the British forces, five British pounds that Germany would surrender by Christmas.

Germany had lost upwards of three million men in the war. Its cities and factories were being bombed around the clock. All men age 16 to 60 had been drafted. Slave labor from the conquered lands of Europe worked and starved on the assembly lines.

Sid Moody, a freelance writer from New York City, wrote "Battle For Leyte Gulf" in the October issue of this magazine.

TRUCKING ON—90th Infantry Div. supplies roll through the hard-won town of Bastone.



"AUTUMN MIST"—*The Nazi attack began Dec. 16, 1944, and the German gains encompassed the shaded area. But by Jan. 13, 1945, the Allies were at the broken line. The First U.S. Army drove down from the north toward Houffalize; British troops from the west moved forward; Third U.S. Army troops squeezed the Germans southwest of Bastogne.*

BETTMANN PHOTOS/THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Even the cast of the Berlin Opera had been put to work in an electrical plant. The home front was near starvation. But if anything, the Germans at the front fought even harder. Now they were defending their home turf—the fatherland.

Hitler deluded himself in believing that a sudden German strike to capture Antwerp — principal supply port of the Allies — would prompt the capitalist nations to join forces with Germany to annihilate the real foe, communist Russia. His hands shaking and his legs twitching from an assassin's bomb that July, the Führer outlined his plan, Herbstnebel (Autumn Mist), to his incredulous generals.

"If we should reach the Meuse [river], we should get down on our knees and thank God," said Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt, the old Prussian named to head the offensive. "This damn thing doesn't have a leg to stand on," said pro-Nazi Field Marshal Walther Model who would hold immediate control of the battle. Both spoke out of earshot of the Führer.

The forces were assembled in great stealth. Radio communications were forbidden, voiding Britain's Enigma codebreakers who had long been reading Germany's radio transmissions. Planes flew back and forth over the Siegfried Line on Germany's border to muffle the sound of trucks and trains. Nature also helped, as fog cloaked the forest daily. "It was like being in a glass of milk," said one GI. "You could hide an army in these goddamned woods and no bastards would ever know it," said another.

That was just what happened at 5:30 a.m. Dec. 16, 1944, when

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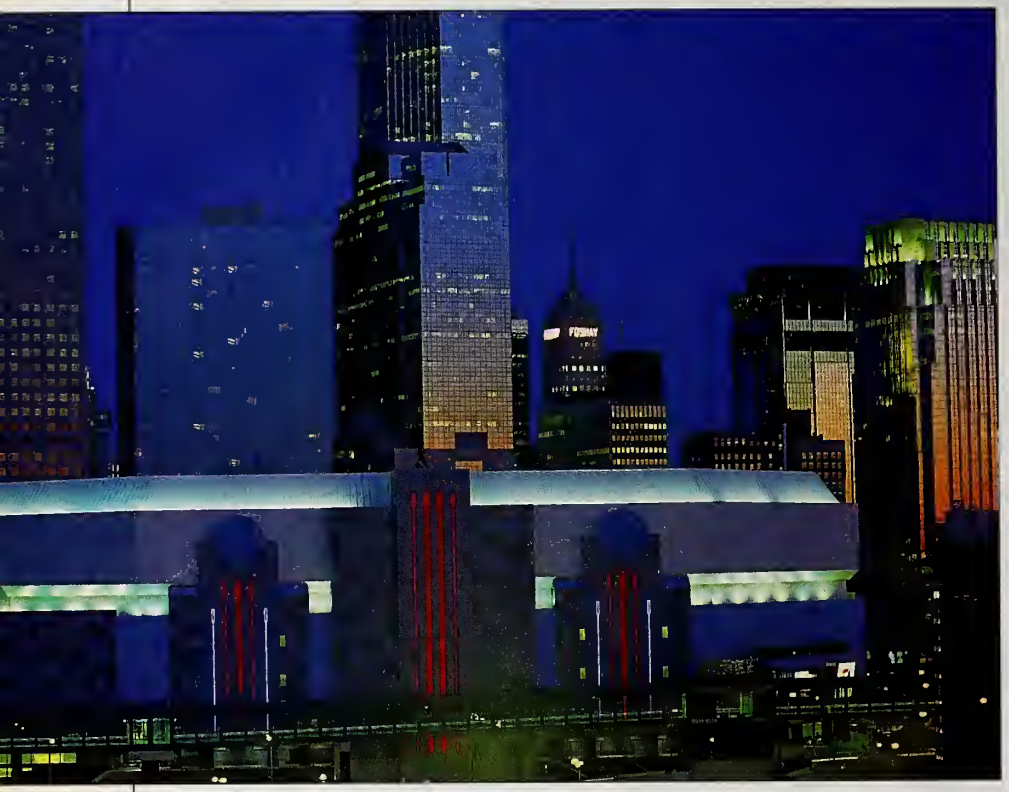
SOUP TO NUTS—*Officers of the 101st have Christmas dinner while under siege. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, third from left, told the Nazis "Nuts!" when asked to surrender.*

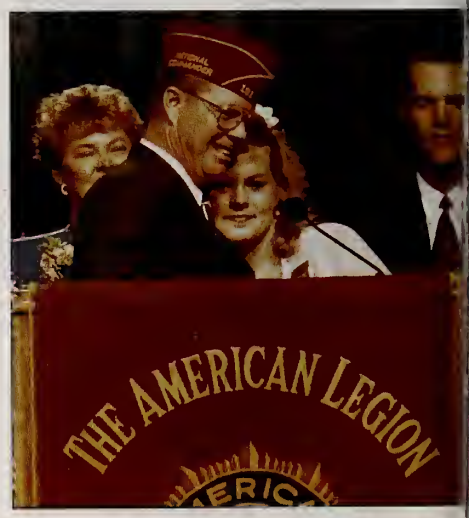


HISTORIC—*A bejeweled Minneapolis welcomed the Legion's 76th National Convention, its fourth, including the Legion's first convention in 1919.*

STAR-SPANGLED—*The opening presentation, the National Commander's daughter, Dianne*

Report From Minneapolis

At the historic 76th National Convention, delegates stepped up the campaign to protect the Flag and pledged to continue preserving the Legion's founding principles.



HELLO—*National Commander Bruce Thiesen, his wife, Graetian; daughter, Sheryl; and son, Kevin, greet delegates.*

AN ENDLESS river of American Flags deluged Minneapolis as more than 1,000 Legionnaires streamed down Third Avenue with their glorious banners during the 76th National Convention. Called the "largest massing of U.S. Flags ever," this great patriotic display stretched close to 10 city blocks and was the highlight of the convention parade.

Marching five abreast, the Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and Sons of The American Legion ignored the fierce gusts of winds and constant rain that fell throughout the parade.

"The flag means freedom," said Bill McDonald, Post 21 Concord, N.H., as he stood in the rain Sunday along the parade route. "Why else would people be out here in weather like this? Nobody should be allowed to burn the Flag."

Minnesotans are familiar with such Flag displays. Since 1959, the Department's unit has been carrying U.S. Flags en masse in National Convention parades.

"I'm proud that The American Legion has taken the lead in forming the Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc., a huge, broad-based, grassroots, coalition of organizations, groups and individuals who feel that the Flag is the one symbol of our national unity and deserves to be protected," said National Commander Bruce Thiesen.

For many along the parade route, this year's historic show of Red, White and Blue symbolized the Legion's push for a constitutional amendment to pro-

"Through the Eyes of a Hero," featured Thiesen Zaro, singing the National Anthem.

ALL FOR THE FLAG—*More than 1,000 Legionnaires carried Flags in the convention parade as part of the world's largest massing of U.S. Flags.*

PHOTOS BY JOHN E. SIMON AND JIM HANSEN

tect the Flag from desecration.

The campaign to protect the Flag through a constitutional amendment worked its way into every conversation during the seven-day Convention that began Sept. 2. As Imagene Stewart, the Auxiliary's National Chaplain, told those attending the convention's Patriotic Religious Service, "There will be no greeting, meeting or eating without talking about protecting our Flag."

In a special convention presentation hosted by National Commander Thiesen and Auxiliary President Helen Holcomb, 3,000 members of the Legion family learned about the Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc., which was created by the Legion in May. Since then, 67 organizations representing more than 26 million Americans have joined the alliance.

Daniel S. Wheeler, president of the Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc., told convention-goers about a special Constitutional Scholars Conference held in August in Williamsburg, Va. There, the language of the amendment was discussed, as was strategy to pass the amendment through two-thirds of Congress and three-quarters of the state legislatures.

During the meeting, Legion Depart-

Please turn to page 36

PRIDE & HONOR—*Legion and Auxiliary officials participate in ceremonies before the University of Minnesota-Penn State football game.*

ICE SHOW—*Bruce and Graetian Thiesen admire the ice sculpture during the Commander's banquet.*

THE MINNEAPOLIS AFFIRMATION

GOD AND COUNTRY—*The principles of 1919 Legionnaires march on today.*

To commemorate the 75 years of American Legion history, delegates to the 76th National Convention renewed their commitment to the principles of the Legion Founders with Special Resolution 419:

WHEREAS, To us, the heirs of a proud tradition, the Founders of The American Legion in the City of Minneapolis in November 1919 bequeathed the four pillars upon which our great brotherhood yet stands, as proclaimed in the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, It is upon these pillars that we have built the programs by which we serve our comrades, our youth and our nation; and

WHEREAS, By the Throne of Almighty God the Founders surely stand and say of us "Well done, beloved heirs and comrades"; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minn., September 6-8, 1994, that we express our eternal gratitude for the wisdom and foresight of our Founders in this, our 75th Anniversary Year, by affirming anew our commitment to the perpetuation of our principles; and be it further

RESOLVED, That in affirmation of our troth, we pledge our unrelenting vigilance on behalf of our comrades-in-arms, their children, and their widows and orphans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm the American Flag to be sole unifying symbol of these United States, a nation born of diversity and nurtured in the shadow of that banner, beneath which the honored remains of countless heroes have been laid to rest, deserving if need be of our protection unto death; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm to the generations as yet unborn their due inheritance, a legacy no less grand than that to which we today are heirs: a nation strong, united and flourishing in peace and prosperity; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm to our nation's defenders, and the citizens they serve, our dedication to national sovereignty and security so inviolable as to render America forever free from aggression and domination by those who would do us harm; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm the principle of citizen soldiery by our support and dedication to those who stand in ready preparedness to answer the call to arms, the Reserve and National Guard forces, and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm to all Americans our commitment to the principle of government of the People, by the People, and for the People, a principle best embodied by a Congress unfettered and free from foreign influence and ever alert to the failures of foreign policy by which the constraints on war are loosed; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That by the witness of Man and in the Presence of Almighty God, we do hereby commend this affirmation to all in whom these sentiments ring true.

PARADE OOMPH—*Over a dozen bands and 80 units marched in the parade.*

CORNY—*Department of Iowa members give parade spectators an earful.*

RAIN GO AWAY—*A light rain soaked spectators during the three-hour parade.*

PHOTOS BY JOHN E. SIMON AND JIM HANSEN

BANNER DAY—*Minneapolis's Third Avenue became an endless river of Red, White and Blue.*

NATIVE PRIDE—*Legionnaires from across the nation showed their colors in the parade.*

PATRIOTIC TIES—*Legionnaires from the Department of Ohio uniformly show their national pride.*

GOPHERS VS. LIONS—*Hundreds of Legionnaires and their families attended the football game between the University of Minnesota and Penn State at the Metrodome. Penn State's Nittany Lions trounced the Golden Gophers, 56-3.*

PRE-GAME MUNCHIES—*Before the University of Minnesota-Penn State game, National Commander Thiesen hosted a tailgate party outside the Metrodome. Legionnaires dined on hot dogs, chicken and butter-dipped corn on the cob.*

TOUR OF DUTY—*Members of the Economic Commission visit a homeless shelter on the grounds of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center with PNC Dale Renaud, special assistant on homelessness to VA Secretary Jesse Brown.*

PHOTOS BY JOHN E. SIMON AND JIM HANSEN

Continued from page 33

ments showed their commitment to the campaign by contributing to the Citizen's Flag Alliance. Delegates reacted to the Department of New York's $50,000 donation with a gasp. Contributions also included $1,000 from the Department of Illinois and $6,000 from Fox Associates, advertising representatives for THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.

In all, more than $60,000 was raised during convention for the Citizen's Flag Alliance. Although he wasn't able to attend the convention, WWI Legionnaire Frank Anselmo of Post 95, Quincy, Mass., sent a $5,000 donation with the Department of Massachusetts.

"Mr. Anselmo's contribution is above and beyond any of our expectations," said National Commander Thiesen. "This donation says how much the Flag means to Americans."

HISTORICAL MILESTONES

Minneapolis is steeped in Legion tradition. This year's convention was held two blocks from the site of the Legion's first National Convention in 1919. Although the building that housed that first convention at 11th and Nicollet streets no longer stands, there are two plaques commemorating the historic site.

Minneapolis has also hosted three other conventions, and just outside the city are the second and third largest Posts in the country — Post 435, Richfield, and Post 251, Robbinsdale.

Thus, it was fitting that at this year's convention, Legionnaires renewed their commitment to the founding principles of the Legion by passing Special Resolution 419, The Minneapolis Affirmation (see Page 34).

The historic convention opened with a flourish as delegates saw "Through the Eyes of a Hero," a 30-minute musical and dramatic show that chronicled the Legion's 75 years of service to the nation. An actor portraying Teddy Roosevelt Jr., a Legion founder, narrated the seven decades of Legion accomplishments. For $9.95, Legionnaires can buy a VAS video tape of the star-spangled presentation by writing to National Emblem Sales, P.O. Box 1050, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Also attending the convention was George Washington Bentley, 96, one of the four living Legion founders. A Minneapolis resident and member of Post 231, Bentley thanked Legionnaires for their work and described his life as

a doughboy and the bombing of Europe in World War I.

VA CARE FOR VETERANS

Like those first delegates to the 1919 convention, Legionnaires at the 76th National Convention demonstrated their concerns for the health of veterans — from World War I to Desert Storm.

Among the 193 resolutions passed was Res. 82, the Legion's policy on Desert Storm Disabilities, which calls on Congress to make Persian Gulf ailments service-connected and compensable.

During the convention, National Commander Thiesen called on delegates to write letters telling their congressmen that the VA health-care system must be preserved as part of any plan to reform health care.

"Too many quick-fix health-care reform plans don't even mention the word 'veteran,'" said Thiesen. "That's not right. The medical needs of 27 million veterans shouldn't be an afterthought to reformers in Congress."

Pledging his support to keep VA an independent health-care system was VA Secretary Jesse Brown, a distinguished guest of the convention. "No more questions about conditions that are not service-connected," Brown said. "Just service. Just medical care. And that is as it should be."

Brown and other VA officials at the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission meeting discussed the destruction of veterans' claims files by VA workers that recently was revealed by THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE. "I want you to know that anyone caught destroying your records will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," Brown said.

Charles Cragin, chairman of the Board of Veterans Appeals, told VA&R Commission members that VA is pushing to keep the attorney who destroyed veterans files from practicing law again. "He violated a most sacred trust," Cragin said. "Our mission is to put veterans first. He put veterans last."

SMITHSONIAN CONTROVERSY

An exhibit about the nuclear bombing of Japan that ended World War II drew fire from the convention. Scheduled to open in May in

JESSE BROWN
VA SECRETARY

"I will fight to insure that this nation's VA hospitals will be maintained as an independent system for veterans."

SEN. ROBERT C. SMITH
NEW HAMPSHIRE

"The only business we should be doing with Vietnam is finding out what happened to our men."

REP. LANE EVANS
ILLINOIS

"We shouldn't try to balance the budget on the backs of the people who fought for this country."

PRESTON M. TAYLOR JR.
ASS'T SECRETARY OF LABOR

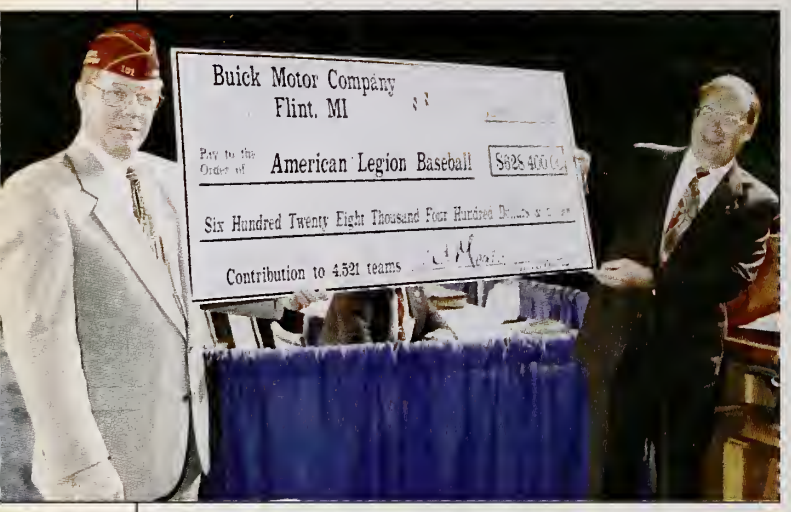
"There is a dire need to change the employment system designed to help Americans find and prepare for jobs."

ARNE CARLSON
GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA

"How can our society expect its children to grow up with respect if we allow people to burn our Flag?"

REP. JIM RAMSTAD
MINNESOTA

"Congress must not forget our country's veterans while reforming our health-care system."



DRIVEN TO SUCCESS—*George Green, director of marketing, Buick Motor Division, presents National Commander Thiesen with a check representing Buick's $628,400 donation to American Legion Baseball.*

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE—*During the convention's general session, Thiesen presents the Legion's Distinguished Service Award to Walter Annenberg, former U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain and an ardent supporter of education.*

PHOTOS BY JOHN E. SIMON AND JIM HANSEN

Washington, D.C., the exhibit is being prepared by the Smithsonian Institution's National Air & Space Museum. Titled "The Last Act: The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II," it will display part of the Enola Gay, the B-29 that dropped the first A-bomb.

The Legion and other veterans organizations claim the original scripts for the exhibit were biased because they portrayed the Japanese as victims of U.S. aggression. (See "Rewriting Enola Gay's History," Page 26.)

"The exhibit is biased," Thiesen said at a press conference before the convention started. "It ignores Japan's prewar aggression in the Pacific. It casts doubt on American motives. It celebrates Japanese heroism and ignores American suffering."

Representatives from the Smithsonian told the Internal Affairs Commission that the exhibit has again been revised and now will even-handedly chronicle events leading to the bombing of Hiroshima.

"I'm not going to tell you we didn't make some mistakes," said Constance Berry Newman, the Smithsonian Institution's undersecretary. Newman credited the Legion with helping to get the scripts changed and said on-going script revision is not an unusual process for the Smithsonian.

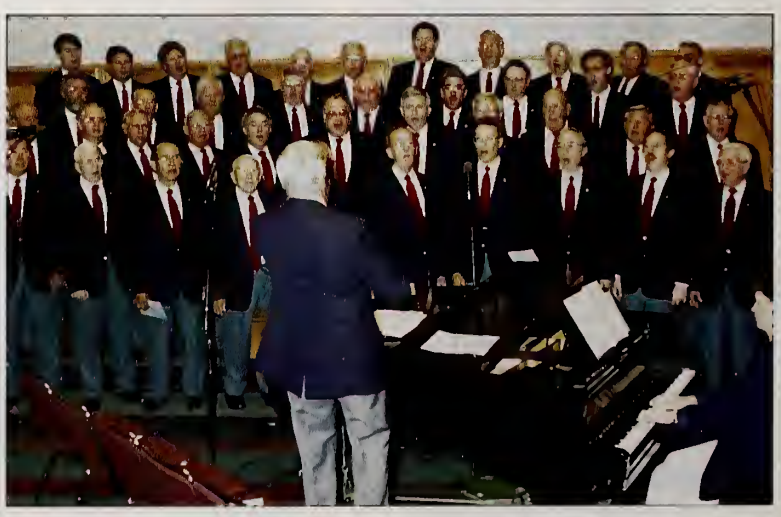
"We went face to face with the Smithsonian and they blinked," National Commander Thiesen told a convention press conference. The convention passed Res. 391, calling for the Legion to "review all materials" related to the exhibition. However, the resolution does not support or endorse the exhibit.

POW/MIAs

The United States is rapidly moving to normalize relations with Vietnam, even though the status of U.S. POW/MIAs in Southeast Asia has not been fully resolved, Sen. Robert C. Smith of New Hampshire told convention delegates.

"The only business we ought to be doing in Vietnam is the business of finding out what happened to our men," said Smith, the ranking minority member of the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs. "We have more

FOURTH ESTATE—*KSNW-TV of Wichita, Kan., won the Fourth Estate Award for "The Healing Journey." From left, Thomas Kouyeas, Diane Carlson Evans, KSNW's Ted Lewis and Thiesen.*



PATRIOTIC RELIGIOUS SERVICE—*The Singing Legionnaires of Post 15, Sioux Falls, S.D., led the more than 1,000 Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion at the Patriotic Religious Service in the singing of "God Bless America."*

AMERICANISM—*The Department of Vermont won the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy. From left, Dept. Cmdr. Alan B. Grazini; Dept. Americanism committee member James Brouillette; Past Dept. Cmdr. Ron Aldrich; Otto Wick, publisher of the* Midland Daily News; *and Thiesen.*

FOUNDER SALUTES LEGION—*Ninety-six year-old American Legion founder George W. Bentley, a member of Post 231, Minneapolis, praised the Legion for its 75 years of service to the nation.*

MIAs who have not been accounted for than there are people in this room," said Smith, who was presented a Legion meritorious service citation during the convention for his work on the POW/MIA issue.

In a special POW/MIA forum, moderated by PNC Robert Turner, guests and Legionnaires discussed the status of U.S. POW/MIAs.

"It has become evident the government cannot be trusted on the POW/MIA issue," said Carol Hrdlicka, the wife of a missing Air Force pilot. "I don't know how young people can join the military today. If they're captured, they will be forgotten."

Former North Carolina congressman, Bill Hendon, told the forum that he believes U.S. POWs once were held in an underground Vietnamese prison system after the Vietnam War and still may be there. "The government is lying to you just as sure as that rug is 'lying' on the floor," he said.

Another panelist, James W. Wold, deputy assistant Secretary of Defense for Prisoners of War/Missing in Action, said he welcomes input from POW/MIA activists and family members of missing men. "As a lawyer and former prosecutor, I am prepared to look at all the evidence on POW/MIAs," he said. Wold said the Department of Defense employs 500 civilian and military employees in its Joint Task Force Full Accounting, with a $100 million budget this year.

"We don't send our guys or gals into combat without them knowing we will do everything to bring them home," Wold said.

MUTUAL HELPFULNESS

In addition to the $60,000 donated to the Citizen's Flag Alliance, convention-goers opened their hearts and wallets to help others by donating to the National Emergency Fund. Among the more than $26,000 collected for the fund was $8,000 from the Department of Pennsylvania; $7,500 from the Department of North Carolina; and the Department of New York Sons of the American Legion gave $1,500. The Sourthern Caucus gathered and contributed more than $500 to the NEF at

FOR THOSE LEFT BEHIND—*National Security Commission Chairman Anthony G. Jordan, left, and Foreign Relations Commission Chairman Joseph J. Frank drape the POW/MIA flag over a chair during the opening ceremonies of the POW/MIA forum.*

KOREAN MEMORIAL—*Thiesen presents a check representing the Legion's contributions to the Korean War Memorial to PNC John P. "Jake" Comer of the memorial's advisory committee.*

SWEARING IN—*Past National Commander E. Roy Stone Jr. administers the oath of office to newly elected National Commander William M. Detweiler who is a member of Post 307 of New Orleans, La.*

CAPPING THE ELECTION—*Detweiler's wife, Maureen, fits the red cap of National Commander on her husband, who becomes the fifth Vietnam-era veteran to lead the world's largest veterans' organization.*

FAMILY CELEBRATION—*After Detweiler was sworn in, he receives congratulations from his wife, Maureen; sons, Keith and Scott; daughters, Bonnie and Jeannie; daughter-in-law, Christine; and grandson, Scott Jr.*

CHALLENGE—*"Every member of the Legion should tell at least one other person about the great things we do."*

PHOTOS BY JOHN E. SIMON AND JIM HANSEN

its annual breakfast; and Lydia Pickup of Post 19, Renton, Wash., gave $1,000 — the largest individual donation.

While at the convention, the National Emergency Fund provided 23 grants for about $23,000 to victims of the Southeast flooding.

As is the custom at every convention, a blood drive was held, and 266 units of blood were collected from Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and Sons of the American Legion. The blood will go to help 170 hospitals in four states.

Days before the opening of the National Convention, two St. Paul police officers were killed in the line of duty, shaking the Twin Cities. On behalf of the Legion, National Commander Thiesen gave $2,500 to the memorial fund for the officers' widows and children.

"In keeping with The American Legion's long-standing commitment to the principles of law and order and to the nation's law enforcement officers, and as a demonstration of our concern for the welfare of the families and children of these officers, I want to make a special contribution to their memorial fund on behalf of the 3.1 million Legion members," said Thiesen.

AWARDS, PRIZES, HONORS

Former University of Minnesota football coach Murray Warmath received the Good Guy Award from the Past Department Commander's Club. He led the University of Minnesota football team to two Big Ten titles and was named Coach of the Year by the Football Writers Association in 1960.

NOMINATION COVERED—*Delegates from the Department of Louisiana march in enthusiastic support of their candidate for the office of National Commander.*

TEAMWORK—*Detweiler and newly elected National Auxiliary President Linda Newsome pledged to work together to meet their goals, especially protecting the U.S. Flag.*

Winning the Legion's Fourth Estate Award was KSNW-TV of Wichita, Kan., for its series "The Healing Journey," which chronicled the poignant journey of a former Army nurse to the dedication of the Vietnam Women Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In a ceremony near the conclusion of the convention, National Sergeant-At-Arms Frank M. Ortiz sounded a bell three times to honor the service of the Departments of Italy, Canada and Panama. These Departments were consolidated with other Departments to increase efficiency.

Contributions of other Legion Departments also were recognized. This year's Department award winners were:

- Vermont, the William F. Lenker National Service Trophy for service to veterans in the state;
- Vermont, the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy for outstanding Americanism activities;
- Maryland, the Frank N. Belgrano Jr. Trophy for outstanding support of the state's Boy Scout program;
- Florida, the Ralph T. O'Neil Education Trophy for the greatest support of the Legion's school medal program;
- Florida, the Garland Murphy Award for most contributions to the Child Welfare Foundation.

Individual award winners were:

- Kervin Bradford of Post 573, Harker Heights, Texas, Recruiter of the Year, for signing up 483 new members;
- American Classic Charter and Tours Inc. of Selma, N.C., Employer of the Year Award for companies with 50 or fewer employees, for hiring veterans;
- Morton International Inc. of Seabrook, N.H., Employer of the Year Award for companies with 51 to 200 employees, for hiring veterans; and
- Schneider National Inc. of Green Bay, Wis., Employer of the Year Award for companies with more than 200 employees, for hiring veterans.

During the convention, Legion corporate partners conducted drawings for tens of thousands of dollars in prizes. The prizes and winners were:

- A $27,000 1995 Buick LeSabre, donated by Buick was won by John P. Tipping of Hicksville, N.Y. The raffle for the Buick raised $17,000 to be used to create an American Legion Baseball scholarship fund.
- A $1,000 certificate of deposit from MBNA Bank, The American Legion's VISA provider, was won by Jeannette S. Rouleau of Barre, Vt.
- A television/VCR from Jackson National Life, the company providing the Legion's annuity program, was won by Shirley A. Olinger of Corning, N.Y.

GAVEL PASSING

As the end of the convention drew near, delegates thanked National Commander Thiesen for his year in office. "I thank you for giving me the privilege of allowing me to serve as the Diamond Jubilee commander," Thiesen told convention delegates. He introduced his wife, Graetian, and family, thanking them for their support during the year.

After Thiesen's farewell, convention

OFFICERS—*The 1994-95 National Vice Commanders, from left, Vernon K. Grosenick, Wautoma, Wis.; Silas M. Noel, Frankfort, Ky.; H. Gordon Burleigh, Ticonderoga, N.Y.; Detweiler; Joseph T. Craig, Ketchikan, Alaska; and Calvin E. Patton, Camp Springs, Md.*

FOR THE FLAG—*The Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc. (CFA), raised thousands of dollars, including $50,000 from the Department of New York. Above, Florida NECman George Derrick gives a donation to CFA President Daniel S. Wheeler (left) and Thiesen.*

BUICK RAFFLE—*Buick donated a 1995 LeSabre worth $27,000 to be raffled during the convention. The drawing raised $17,000 to create an American Legion Baseball scholarship fund. The winner of the LeSabre is John P. Tipping of Hicksville, N.Y.*

ARMY TRADITION—*Catching the parade with his father, National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle (right), a Vietnam-era Army veteran, is John Paul Spanogle, a recently commissioned Army second lieutenant now stationed at Ft. Knox, Ky.*

PHOTOS BY JOHN E. SINON AND JIM HANSEN

delegates turned to the business at hand — the election of the National Commander who would guide the Legion during the coming year. Unanimously elected was William M. Detweiler of New Orleans, La.

Detweiler, a member of Post 307, New Orleans, who was in the Army from 1963-65, becomes the fifth Vietnam-era veteran to serve as National Commander. He is married to the former Maureen Reed and they have four children: Scott Reed, Bonnie Catherine, Keith and Jeannie Catherine. They have one grandson, Scott Jr.

"As National Commander, one of my goals is to see that every member of The American Legion tells at least one other person about the great things that we do and then encourages that person to join us in our efforts," Detweiler told the Legionnaires on the floor.

Serving as Detweiler's National Vice Commanders are Silas M. Noel, Frankfort, Ky.; Vernon K. Grosenick, Wautoma, Wis.; H. Gordon Burleigh, Ticonderoga, N.Y.; Calvin E. Patton, Camp Springs, Md.; and Joseph T. Craig, Ketchikan, Alaska.

National Commander Detweiler appointed the Rev. Roy L. Pryor, Saluda, S.C., as the National Chaplain; M. LaReine Maxey, Big River, Calif., the National Historian; Charles D. Aucoin, Westlake, La., National Sergeant-At-Arms; and Herbert J. Petit Jr. of Kenner, La., as his Aide. (See Page 50 for more about the new national officers.)

Reappointed national officers were National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle of Michigan; National Judge Advocate Philip B. Onderdonk of Maryland; and National Treasurer Webber LaGrange of Indiana.

ON TO THE GOOD FIGHT

Although the weather didn't cooperate during the convention parade, the spirits of the the delegates, Legionnaires and their spouses were not dampened. They left the land of the 10,000 lakes firmly resolved to carry on the principles Legion founders laid down 75 years ago in that same city.

Among those principles are a deep respect for the Flag that is shared by all Legionnaires.

"Hopefully those who are not part of our campaign will see all these Flags and realize that it's their Flag, too," said Earnest Bastiani of Post 96, Cicero, Ill. "Let's get that constitutional amendment." □

By T. Douglas Donaldson

I'll send you $5.00 FREE if you don't agree my ALL NATURAL beer is better than any commercial beer you've ever tasted.

Hello, my name is Tom Lee, President of Bierhaus International, Inc.

If you're tired of paying $12-$18 a case for beer, I don't blame you.

That's why I'd like to show you an amazing *new* way to brew your own superb lager for as little as $4.56 per case. You actually SAVE up to $10 on EACH CASE OF BEER. And wait until you taste the beer! Compare it to the finest premium beers. Referring to this method of making beer, the *New York Times* stated, "...the quality of the beer may surprise many people... wait two to four weeks and friends may be placing orders."

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I realize you're skeptical. I don't blame you. That's why we're offering our unheard of $5.00 FREE GUARANTEE.

Try your mini-brewery. Keep it for up to 6 months. Make the beer at your leisure. If you don't agree that this is the best beer you've ever tasted in your life, we'll buy the kit back.

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IS IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE?

Using the Bierhaus Mini-Brewery, you can brew beer in just 25 minutes on a regular kitchen stove. Let it ferment for seven days, bottle it, and you're done.

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- No more chemistry set taste.
- No more paying $12-$18 per case of beer.

Just brew what you need once every month or two and that's it! For as little as 19 cents per bottle.

CAN I MAKE DIFFERENT KINDS OF BEER?

Certainly. Just vary the ingredients and recipes according to the instructions supplied with each kit. You can make...

- **LIGHT LAGER.** Comparable to most Canadian premium beers and some light European lagers.
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- **ALE.** Popular with American home brewers. From England's favorite hoppy, dry "bitter" ales to the sweeter brown ales enjoyed in fine European pubs.

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"My friends and I had tours of duty in Europe and were looking for that "old country" flavor and body. Your Bavarian Dark has it all." **—Lt. Fred Frances, Texas**

"Your Continental Amber is as close to a perfect beer as I have ever consumed." **—Dwayne Staner, Iowa**

"I no longer wonder whether I prefer the best commercial beer or your beer which I made. NO QUESTION. YOURS IS THE BEST." **—Ed Pearson, New York**

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You can make up to 200 gallons of beer per year — tax free — and you don't need a federal license of any kind.

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You can make a super light beer (1.8%-2% alcohol), regular strength (4.5%-5%), or a European-style lager, ranging as high as 7.5% alcohol.

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If you truly love good beer, now is the ideal time to start brewing your own. "Sin" taxes are definitely coming. Bills before Congress could add $5.00-$6.00 to a case of beer or you could pay over $1.00 a bottle for a six pack. But even more important is the quality of the beer you drink. "A well made home brew can stand on its own two feet against any premium brew the world over," says Tom Ayers, a home brew enthusiast.

Home brewing is growing at the rate of 25% a year and all the technology, ingredients, equipment and know-how is available to anyone who wants truly fine beer.

WHERE DO I GET SUPPLIES ONCE I GET THE KIT?

Just call us to reorder. Bierhaus is among the largest mail order suppliers of equipment and ingredients in the country. You can choose from over 50 different malts from countries all over the world. We also carry a wide range of brewing supplies and accessories... everything you need to brew the best beer you ever tasted.

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Your new Bierhaus Mini-Brewery contains an FDA foodgrade 7½ gallon fermentation tank with lid and airlock, complete syphon unit, bottle capper and caps, bottle brush, and brewing guide—plus ingredients to make 2+ cases of beer. The ingredients will be for a rich American lager—our best selling beer. Compare it to your favorite American commercial beer.

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HIGHLIGHTS

VA BACKLOG: The Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) attorney who has pleaded guilty to destroying veterans' claim files will never practice law again if VA gets its way, BVA Chairman Charles L. Cragin told the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission. His office is urging that Lawrence Gottfried be disbarred from practicing law. "In one case, we found that Gottfried removed 70 pages of medical records" from the files of a "World War II veteran and ex-POW."

Speaking before the VA&R Commission, John Vogel, VA's undersecretary of veterans' benefits, praised the Legion for working with VA in developing ways to deal with the backlog of claims at the regional level. Legion officials say the number may reach 700,000 by the end of the year. "We believe we have made progress in this area," Vogel said.

IMPROVING VA: "The Legion has a part to play in not only helping us save veterans' health care, but improving it," VA Deputy Secretary Hershel Gober told the VA&R Commission. Gober, former Adjutant of the Department of Arkansas, asked for Legionnaires to stand behind VA and help make sure the agency remains intact. "We cannot afford to sit on the sidelines as the national health-care debate goes on," he said.

HEALTH-CARE REFORM: "We're working to ensure that VA is protected as part of the overall health-care system," Dr. John Farrar, VA's acting under-secretary for health, told the VA&R Commission members. Farrar credited the Legion for stopping proposed staffing cuts at VA and for keeping VA alive in the fight for health-care reform.

JOBS: The Legion's efforts to protect jobs for veterans were saluted by Preston Taylor, assistant Secretary of Labor for veterans employment and training. "The Legion fought for veterans 50 years ago when it wrote and supported the GI Bill and veterans preference in hiring," Taylor said. "And your organization helped join the fight against today's U.S. Postal Service (USPS) plan that would have demoted veterans in their employment and forced many into early retirement."

Taylor told the Economic Commission that the Legion helped defeat the plan that would have eliminated veterans preference in USPS hiring.

COMER

VAUGHT

CARLSON EVANS

FROST

SBA LOANS: "We're trying to convince bankers that making loans to veterans who are business owners is a good investment," said Leon Bechet, director of the Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Veterans Affairs. Bechet talked to the Economic Commission about a new program to help veterans who are entrepreneurs. "Our micro loan program is designed to help people launch new businesses," he said. Loans to veterans would range from $7,000 to $10,000 and SBA would match the bank amount.

NATO'S STILL NEEDED: "The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was a good investment," said NATO Assistant Secretary General Robin Beard. Speaking before a joint session of the National Security and Foreign Relations commissions, Beard said that NATO prevented many wars and allowed the United States to build a trade surplus with Europe. He said that millions of American jobs are the product of NATO. Beard said that NATO worked because of American leadership, and that it will not survive without it.

KOREAN WAR: PNC John P. "Jake" Comer reported to the convention that the Korean War Veterans Memorial is on schedule for its July 27, 1995, dedication in Washington, D.C. "I guarantee you The American Legion will be the largest single contributor to the Korean War Veterans Memorial," Comer said after accepting a check for $357,000 from National Commander Bruce Thiesen. So far, Legionnaires have given the memorial a total of $613,004.02, he said.

FEMALE VETERANS: Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught reminded Legionnaires that the Women in Military Service for America Memorial still needs money. She is president of the foundation that is planning construction of the memorial on a site near the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. So far Legionnaires have donated $139,353. Good news for the memorial came in the form of a $9 million federal grant for restoration work at the memorial site. Sales of commemorative coins also are raising funds.

WOMEN IN VIETNAM: "At last, the men and women who served [in Vietnam] are together forever," said Diane Carlson Evans, a former Army nurse in Vietnam who headed the project that built the Vietnam Women's Memorial. She said that Legionnaires donated $135,000 to the $4 million memorial, but it still needs $340,000 to pay off construction debts.

SPACE: Former "Top Gun" flight instructor Vice Adm. David E. Frost, deputy commander of the U.S. Space Command, welcomed Legionnaires to his "briefing room." Walking down the aisles with a microphone clipped to the collar of his Navy whites, Frost addressed the National Security and Foreign Relations commissions as if they were a group of pilots about to be sent on a mission.

The mission, said Frost, is to distinguish military space programs from NASA programs. "The space shuttle and space exploration is important for our prestige and for science, but military space is not about the shuttle," he

Please turn page

THE 1940 FORD DELUXE COUPE

Shown approximately actual size of 8" in length.
Photos depict our incredibly detailed replica—not the actual car!

A Meticulously Engineered Die-Cast Metal Replica of One of America's Greatest Cars.

It's no wonder the 1940 Ford Deluxe Coupe was one of the most popular cars of its day. Its unforgettable front end featured a chromed, deep "V" ribbed grille and elegant teardrop-shaped headlights that blended smoothly into gently rounded fenders. From the sleek aerodynamic roof to the sharply sloped rear end, the 1940 Ford Coupe's racy lines were a delight to the eyes.

Underneath its massive hood was the famous 221 cubic inch Ford V-8 engine. It boasted 85 hp and gave the car plenty of power for its day. Later, many were "souped up" to become "hot rods". Now, you can acquire a remarkably detailed replica of this fabled classic.

Meticulously crafted; hand-assembled!

Over 135 scale parts go into making this authentic replica in the large 1:24 scale. All the important components—the body, chassis, drivetrain and engine block—are crafted in metal and polished by hand before painting. Every single component is inspected before this replica is assembled by hand.

A Danbury Mint exclusive.

This extraordinary replica is available exclusively from the Danbury Mint. You need send no money now. Simply return the Reservation Application. The price of $94.50 is payable in three monthly installments of $31.50. Production of this superb, hand-assembled, hand-finished model cannot be rushed. Reservations will be accepted on a strict first-come, first-served basis. Mail your reservation today!

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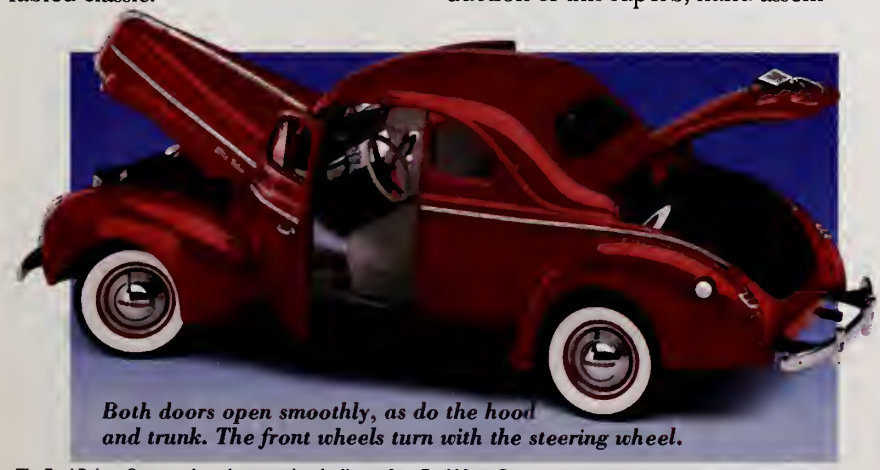

Both doors open smoothly, as do the hood and trunk. The front wheels turn with the steering wheel.

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158EA01

said. "Military space is about satellites that help direct operations on the field. Military space is about putting the right people in the right place at the right time."

LAND POWER: "It's on land that wars are won and lost," said retired Army Gen. John W. Foss, a senior fellow at the Association of The United States Army (AUSA). He cautioned Legionnaires attending the joint session of the National Security and Foreign Relations commissions that America's Army is losing its readiness.

"The good news is that the U.S. Army is still the best in the world. But the Fiscal Year 1995 troop strength of 495,000 in not enough to meet our needs," he said. Foss reminded Legionnaires that the last time the United States neglected its Army after World War II, military readiness suffered and more lives were lost in the Korean War than necessary.

ILLEGAL ALIENS: "Out-of-control illegal immigration and illegal drugs are connected," said Joseph Occhipinti, a former agent with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. He told the Americanism Commission that stopping the flow of illegal immigrants would help stop the flow of drugs. "We've lost control of our borders," he said.

VALUES: Speaking at the annual Patriotic Religious Service, National Chaplain Monsignor Raymond J. Kozlowski called for Legionnaires to continue helping others. "I urge you to continue to love, continue to dream and to continue to build for an America on the value of love. Do this, and America will continue to be a beacon from sea to shining sea for all nations of the world."

SAL LEADER: Joe Mayne of Squadron 85, North Branch, Minn., was elected National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion (SAL). He became eligible for SAL through his father's service in World War II and his stepfather's service in the Korean War. A 13-year SAL member, Mayne has served as chairman of SAL's Public Relations Commission and has been a member of the Legislative Commission and the Education Committee.

TSAI

THOMAS

HEFFELFINGER

WHITEHEAD

THOMSON

HOLCOMB

"We're a proud possessor of a priceless heritage and we honor your service by our existence," he said. "We best honor you by working in Legion programs. The Sons of The American Legion stands ever ready to serve veterans and the Legion family."

WWII GENERATION: "No generation of Americans was given a tougher job than the men and women who fought in World War II," said Lt. Gen. Claude M. Kicklighter, executive director of the Department of Defense's World War II Commemorative Committee. Kicklighter urged Legionnaires at the convention to keep working in their communities and schools to coordinate events to honor World War II veterans.

YOUTH CHAMPIONS: Lisa S. Tsai, winner of The American Legion's National High School Oratorical Contest, thanked the Legion and pledged her support for the campaign to protect the Flag. "I hope someday to help you by becoming a voice for The American Legion, speaking on such issues as passing the Flag amendment," she said.

- Ben Thomas, 1993 Baseball Player of the Year, said the award has opened many doors for him. "When the Legion took me to Cooperstown, N.Y., I was able to meet baseball stars like Ken Griffey Jr. and John Kruk," he said.
- Scout of the Year Matthew A. Heffelfinger said, "Through the Boys Scouts, we learned how to become better Americans, and we learned respect for different ideas." He also thanked Post 316 of Summit Hill, Pa., for sponsoring his nomination as Scout of the Year.
- 1994 Boys Nation President Thomas Whitehead said, "Boys State and Nation taught me about stopping the disease of ignorance. I learned to listen to all sides with open ears."
- Stephanie Thomson, National Junior Shooting Sports Champion, said that "the Legion's shooting sports program taught me mental control and safety. It is a great honor to be here and an honor to my grandfather who was a Legionnaire."

AUXILIARY: "I am proud of our accomplishments this year," said National Auxiliary President Helen Holcomb. "What a great feeling to look out into the audience and see so many members dedicated and committed to the continued success of the American Legion Auxiliary."

Linda M. Newsome of Waldorf, Md., was elected National President of the American Legion Auxiliary. She will serve during its 75th anniversary.

"The public should be aware that the Auxiliary has been a focal point in local communities throughout the world," she said. "This anniversary year will be an opportunity to tell the story of our accomplishments to the public — such as our organization's ability to raise $18 million each year for reinvestment in VA medical centers and community programs." Newsome also pledged her full support to the Citizens Flag Alliance campaign to protect the Flag.

NATIONAL GUARD: "The National Guard and The American Legion have a lot in common — we've served together in times of conflict and in times of natural disaster," said retired Maj. Gen. Robert Ensslin, executive director of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGUS).

Please turn page

The gift that can be returned: the gift of health that lasts a lifetime.

NordicTrack — the world's best gift.

When you give a NordicTrack® exerciser, you're giving someone the best way to reduce excess weight, stress and blood pressure. Who wouldn't desire a healthful gift like that?

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Many people give up on exercise because it's hard on their body. But consider what Robert Penza of Franklinville, New Jersey, says about his NordicTrack:

"I have used bikes and rowers and it is my opinion that they do not compare to the total workout that I get from my NordicTrack. I work out 4 times a week for 25 minutes a day. I feel it's a much smoother exercise and pleasant one as well."

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By using a NordicTrack, our owners know they'll keep the gift of fitness. Our *patented flywheel and one-way clutch system* ensures *smooth and fun-to-do exercise that's easy on the joints and muscles.*

That's why people stay with NordicTrack. And why it's a gift that won't be returned.

Recent research shows that even after five years, *7 in 10 owners use their NordicTrack an average of three times a week.*

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Where else can you find a machine that *burns more fat in less time than lower-body exercisers?* But at the same time, can cost hundreds less.

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HIGHLIGHTS

"You are America's great citizen-based volunteer force, and we are its citizen-based defense force." Ensslin presented National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle with the Patrick Henry Award, the highest honor bestowed by the NGUS for service to the National Guard.

CEMETERIES: "We are constantly looking for new sites to open cemeteries, whenever and wherever feasible," said Jerry Bowen, director of VA's National Cemetery System (NCS) at the VA&R Commission meeting. NCS operates 114 cemeteries nationwide. But 56 cemeteries do not accept new burials, except for space reserved for family members of those already interred. Bowen said that new burial space is especially needed in the western United States.

COLOR GUARDS: Following are the results of the National Senior Color Guard Competition, in order of finish:

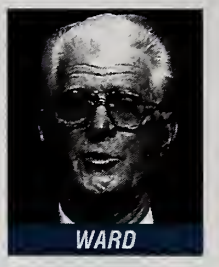
- Open Class—Parkville Patriots, Post 183, Baltimore, Md.; and Apple Core Color Guard, Post 370, Louisiana, Mo.
- Senior Color Guard, Military Class (American Legion)—Honor Guard, Post 500, Speedway, Ind.; Tri-City Senior Color Guard, Post 513, New Brighton, Minn.; Hanford Color Guard, Post 5, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Dousman Drill Team, Post 405, Dousman, Wis.; and Harrisburg Color Guard, Post 472, Houston, Texas.
- Senior Color Guard, Military Class (open eligibility) —Pure Heaven Color Guard, Ames, Iowa; SAL Squadron 27 Color Guard Drill Team, Post 27, Apache Junction, Ariz.; Henderson-Smith-Edmonds Color Guard, Post 86, Rockville, Md.; Garrett Post 178 Honor Guard, Garrett, Ind.; and Roadrunners Color Guard, Post 410, Lockport, NY.

BAND CONTEST: Winners of The American Legion National Band Contest were:

The Joliet American Legion Band (First Place); the Oconomowoc American Legion Band (Second Place); and the Greater Kansas City American Legion Band (Third Place).

The first place winner, the Joliet American Legion Band, has won more than 30 championships, including the inaugural American Legion band competition in 1946.

DOSIO


WARD

KOBOLAK

CHOU

OVERSEAS VETERANS: Representatives of veterans groups from other countries congratulated Legionnaires on their 75th anniversary:

- "We share common concerns and commitments about the Flag and support for children and youth," said W.T. "Russ" Ward, Dominion President of Army, Navy, Air Force Veterans in Canada.
- "We have both served our comrades well. We feel a great responsibility for youth. This demands great effort," said Joseph Kobolak, the Dominion First Vice President of The Royal Canadian Legion.
- "We are committed to attaining liberty and democracy for people all around the world," said Gen. Shih-pin Chou, chairman of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, Republic of China. "As veterans we have paid a high price for the prosperity of all. The Legion is to be commended for always being a close friend to veterans," he added.

COAST GUARD: "On behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard, I want to thank The American Legion for its support," said Vice Adm. James Loy of the U.S. Coast Guard. "We are doing important work with refugees fleeing Cuba and Haiti, and we need to be prepared for these situations. In the Coast Guard, we know that preparation equals performance."

PHONE HOME: Francis X. Dosio received an American Legion certificate of appreciation for his PT Phone Home project, which has provided in-room telephones to veterans in VA hospitals. Dosio realized that the 75,000 veterans in VA hospitals did not have what every civilian in hospitals had — access to phones. Dosio is already working on his next project: getting computers to veterans in VA hospitals. "We want to get these veterans working, being part of society, not just warehoused in a hospital," he said.

FOUR CHAPLAINS: Legion Resolution 387 calls for the Four Chaplains to receive the Medal of Honor for their sacrifices. "I want to thank The American Legion for their kind recognition of the Four Chaplains," said Dante Mattioni, chairman of The Chapel of Four Chaplains.

LEGION "NATION": Rep. Jim Ramstad of Minnesota credits The American Legion for much of his success in life. Ramstad went to Boys Nation with President Bill Clinton in 1963 and attended his 30th anniversary reunion of Boys Nation last year. "In war, the Legion has saved lives," Ramstad told delegates at the convention. "In peace, the Legion has built leaders."

HOMELESS: "Assistance to homeless veterans must be local; folks at the community level must be involved," said Past National Commander Dale Renaud, special assistant to the VA secretary for homelessness.

Renaud also pointed to recent steps VA has taken to further lend a hand to homeless veterans, particularly its establishing the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem program. Congress authorized $5.5 million to make grants to groups that develop programs which help homeless veterans. He said that VA participates in "Stand Down" projects across the nation, providing on-site counseling services, clothing and minor medical care for homeless veterans.

"I'm gratified that my fellow Legionnaires have been helping their less fortunate veterans." Renaud and members of the Economic Commission visited a Minnesota homeless shelter during the convention. Renaud said that VA is doing all it can to get homeless veterans off the streets, and thanked the Legion for its help.□

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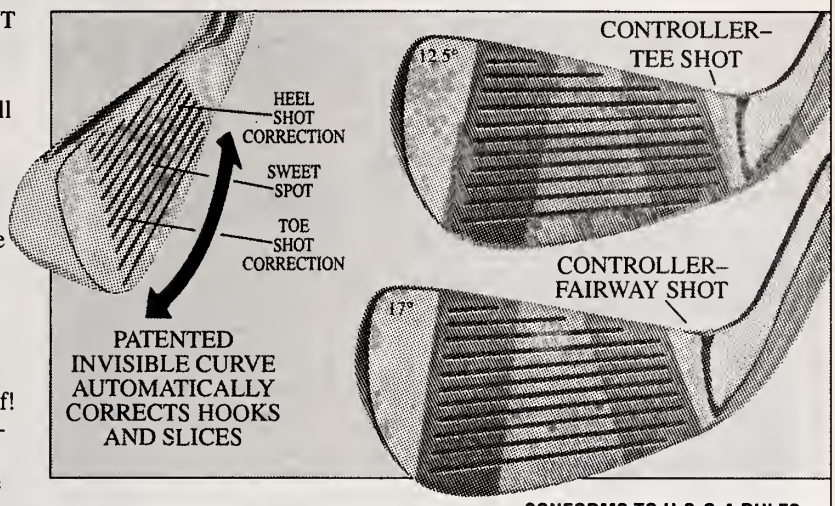

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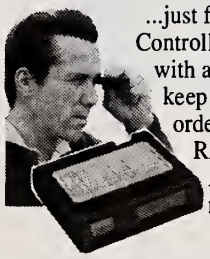

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NATIONAL OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

Calvin E. Patton
Camp Springs, Md.

A member of The American Legion for 33 years, Calvin E. Patton offers this advice:

"Legionnaires can make a difference, but they must do more than just gripe or write a letter. Talk to your elected officials or their administrative staff. Go to their meetings and fundraisers. Personal contact gets their attention."

A World War II Navy veteran, Patton was recalled to naval service for the Korean War. He retired after 36 years of combined active and Reserve duty as a chief warrant officer.

He has served 25 years as Finance Officer for Post 248, Temple Hills, Md., and has been Department Commander and a NECman. He and his wife, Betty, have three children: Donna, Randall and Steven.

As Vice Commander for the Central Region, Patton is responsible for membership in Delaware, District of Columbia, France, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Puerto Rico, West Virginia and Virginia.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

Vernon K. Grosenick
Wautoma, Wis.

Fifty years ago, a local druggist asked Vernon K. Grosenick for two bucks and signed him up as a member of The American Legion. Grosenick has been an active Legionnaire ever since. He has been Commander of Post 15 in Juneau, Wis., NECman and a member of the National Trophies and Awards Committee.

A World War II Navy veteran, he and his wife, Mavis, have three sons: Thomas, Gerald and Lawrence.

"I believe it is vital that Posts make a serious effort to make their activities known in their community. To do that, I'm going to urge every Post to assign a Public Relations Officer," Grosenick says.

Responsible for the Midwest Region, Grosenick will push for increased membership in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North and South Dakota and Wisconsin.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

Silas M. Noel
Frankfort, Ky.

A former Marine drill sergeant during the Korean War, Silas M. Noel is responsible for the Southern Region of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

A 32-year member of Post 7 in Frankfort, Noel has served as Post 7 Adjutant 15 times and is the current Boys State Director. He also has served as Post Commander, NECman and Vice Chairman of the National Foreign Relations Commission.

For Posts that want to increase their membership, Noel advises, "Use the Direct Mail System, then make personal contact." Noel cites his Post as proof that it works. Post 7 has risen from 465 to 805 members.

Noel has two children, S. Michael Noel and Ann Michelle Bates.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

Joseph T. Craig
Ketchikan, Alaska

Joseph T. Craig believes in long commitments, serving 22 years in the Coast Guard and another 20 years with the Department of Transportation. He and his wife, Ruth, have two sons, Tom and Troy.

As a member of Post 3, Craig has served 24 years as Service Officer, 21 years as Finance Officer and 24 years on the Post Executive Committee. He has also been Department Commander, spent 12 years as Alternate NECman and served on the National Economic Commission.

His philosophy on getting new members? "We must concentrate on the upbeat, the positive," Craig says. "Think about it. If one Legionnaire went out and signed up one veteran, we would double our membership in one year."

Craig is responsible for the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Mexico, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, the Philippines, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

H. Gordon Burleigh
Ticonderoga, N.Y.

A lifelong resident of Ticondero-

ga, N.Y., H. Gordon Burleigh joined the Legion 41 years ago as a member of Post 1538 in Hague, N.Y. A veteran of the Army Counter Intelligence Corps, he served in Japan, Korea and stateside from 1952 to 1954. After the Army, he taught high school math and science for 36 years.

Burleigh has served as Post Commander and Department Commander and has been active in Americanism and Membership. For the past 19 years he has been a member of the National Convention Commission.

Burleigh uses the letter "I" to explain his recruiting philosophy:

"Invite, inform, indoctrinate, initiate, involve to insure success. The Legion has given us the tools to strengthen our organization and increase our membership," he says. "The work we are doing with veterans' health care and the Citizens Flag Alliance offers us a golden opportunity to really increase our membership."

He will cover the New England Region of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN

M. LaReine Maxey

Big River, Calif.

A former Navy WAVE, M. LaReine Maxey joined Post 6 in San Diego, Calif., 33 years ago. She believed Post 6 offered a healthy social environment for children. Her concern for youth is obvious. She and her husband, Clyde, are the parents of seven: Mary, Thomas, James, Daniel, Joseph, Susanne Tozier and Anita Wray.

Later transferring to Post 60 in Laughlin, Nev., Maxey holds the distinction of being the first woman Commander of Post 6 and Post 60. She has served as Department Historian in both California and Nevada, and was also the Retinitus Pigmentosa Coordinator for the Department of Nevada. She has been the Assistant National Sergeant-of-Arms for 16 years.

Maxey is devoted to maintaining an accurate and complete history of The American Legion. "Legionnaires, Posts and Departments are often too busy making history to take the time to record it," she says.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

Rev. Roy L. Pryor Sr.

Saluda, S.C.

Twelve years ago, Rev. Roy L. Pryor Sr. joined The American Legion to "serve God and country." Since then, the World War II Navy veteran has served as Chaplain of Post 65, Saluda, S.C., and as South Carolina Department Chaplain.

Perhaps fittingly, Pryor and his wife, Ruby, live on Angel Street in Saluda. They have one son, Roy Jr.

The still-active United Methodist minister is looking forward to his year as National Chaplain. "We need to advance the image and message of God and country in our community and country," he says. "I would like to see us do more in the area of children and youth."

Pryor is concerned with religious activities at the Post level. "Often, it is difficult to fill the position of Post Chaplain," he says. "I hope we can strengthen and place a greater emphasis on getting ministers within the community to participate with the Post."

NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Charles D. Aucoin

Westlake, La.

It wasn't long after Charles D. Aucoin finished his hitch in the Navy and returned from Vietnam that he became a member of Post 370, Westlake, La. By 1975, he was elected Post Commander, followed by appointments and elections to committees and commissions. He has served on his Department's Baseball and Americanism commissions and as a member of the National Membership and Post Activities Commission. He has also been both Department Commander and Vice Commander.

Employed as an electrician, Aucoin and his wife, Ann, have three children: Brian, Theresa and Kathy.

In addition to preserving decorum at official meetings, the National Sergeant-At-Arms is responsible for ensuring the colors are properly displayed. Not surprisingly, Aucoin has strong feelings about the Flag. "We must make sure the Flag amendment passes and the will of the people is enacted," he says.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S AIDE

Herbert Petit Jr.

Kenner, La.

Active in the Children and Youth programs in the Department and Post 307 in New Orleans, Herbie Petit will take time out during the coming year to help National Commander William M. Detweiler meet his numerous traveling commitments.

Petit met his wife, Linda, as pen pals while he was serving as a Marine in Vietnam during 1967-68. Both have been active in the Legion for more 20 years. Petit has been Post Commander, District Commander and has served on various Legion committees and commissions within the state.

Petit is a repair foreman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "I feel very honored," Petit says. "Besides being our attorney, Bill Detweiler is a close personal friend. Wherever and whenever Bill needs me, I'll be happy to be of service."

The Petits have two children, Krista and Ericka. □

76TH National Convention Adopts 193 Resolutions

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved...

AMERICANISM
Ray G. Smith (N.C.), Chairman

Res. 8 (Mass.) Urges all government agencies to buy and use only American-made flags.

Res. 46 (Comm.) Supports the traditional rendition of the National Anthem at sporting events.

Res. 47 and 371 (Comm.) Supports English as the official U.S. language.

Res. 159 (W.Va.) Reaffirms The American Legion's commitment and support for the Bill of Rights.

Res. 165 (Va.) Renames "Scout of the Year" award to "Eagle Scout of the Year."

Res. 328 (Md.) Supports the National Flag Day Foundation.

Res. 370 (Comm.) Outlines policy on illegal aliens.

Res. 372 (Comm.) Opposes foreign manufacture of American Flags.

Res. 373 (Comm.) Supports Flag Code changes.

Res. 374 (Comm.) Supports granting admission or naturalization to foreign veterans disabled while serving in the U.S. military.

Res. 375 (Comm.) Opposes legislation that would allow conscientious objectors to divert their taxes.

Res. 376 (Comm.) Opposes convening a constitutional convention to rewrite the Constitution.

Res. 377 (Comm.) Seeks a constitutional amendment granting Congress and the states the authority to make it illegal to publicly desecrate the American Flag.

Res. 378 (Comm.) Outlines policy on the American citizenship naturalization ceremony.

Res. 379 (Comm.) Supports Filipino veterans citizenship interview requirement.

Res. 380 (Comm.) Opposes elimination of the office of Director of Civilian Marksmanship.

Res. 381 (Comm.) Outlines policy on internal security of the United States.

Res. 382 (Comm.) Supports school prayer.

Res. 383 (Comm.) Supports beginning each day in the U.S. Senate and House with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Res. 384 (Comm.) Supports National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

Res. 385 (Comm.) Outlines policy on patriotic holidays.

Res. 386 (Comm.) Opposes changing the words or music of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and supports making March 3 a national day of observance.

Res. 387 (Comm.) Seeks the Medal of Honor for the Four Chaplains.

Res. 388 (Comm.) Supports English being used in naturalization ceremonies.

Res. 389 (Comm.) Opposes illegal immigration.

Res. 390 (Comm.) Urges a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. Flag.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Eugene V. Lindquist (Minn.), Chairman

Res. 392 (Comm.) Urges stronger laws and penalties to eliminate child pornography.

Res. 393 (Comm.) Opposes weakening laws governing sale, distribution and production of obscene literature.

Res. 394 (Comm.) Supports funding to reaffirm the Children's Communicable Disease Immunization Program.

Res. 395 (Comm.) Opposes violence and vandalism in schools.

Res. 396 (Comm.) Urges establishment of National Family Week as an annual observance.

Res. 397 (Comm.) Supports funding for school nutrition programs.

Res. 398 (Comm.) Supports financial assistance for families struck by catastrophic illnesses.

Res. 399 (Comm.) Supports funding to prevent drug trafficking.

Res. 400 (Comm.) Urges amendments to Immigration and Nationality Act to provide equal treatment for admission of all children of U.S. citizens.

ECONOMIC
Allen L. Titus (Ind.), Chairman

Res. 6 (Mass.) Urges continuation of Service Members Occupation Conversion and Training Act.

Res. 25 (Colo.) Opposes downsizing of Veterans' Training and Employment Service.

Res. 79 (Pa.) Supports certain restrictions on federal funding for homeless veterans.

Res. 87 (Utah) Support veterans affirmative action for federal contractors.

Res. 88 (Utah) Urges amendment to Internal Revenue Code defining a qualified veteran.

Res. 89 (Utah) Outlines policy on a strong VA home loan guaranty program.

Res. 90 (Utah) Supports SBA and its Office of Veterans Affairs and any effort to strengthen its veterans programs.

Res. 94 (Utah) Supports allowing the Department of Labor to retain recaptured money to support veterans' employment.

Res. 95 (Utah) Outlines policy on Veterans Preference programs.

Res. 99 (Utah) Urges the federal government to make Veterans Readjustment Appointments a permanent program.

Res. 101 (Utah) Supports Veterans Vocational Training and Retraining Program.

Res. 104 (Utah) Outlines policy on veterans preference and spouse preference in DoD jobs.

Res. 105 (Utah) Supports a permanent pre-discharge employment program at all military discharge centers.

Res. 108 (Utah) Supports making the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit a permanent federal program.

Res. 109 (Utah) Supports a National Veterans' Bill of Rights for Employment.

Res. 113 (Utah) Opposes the $25,000 threshold in conjunction with the Veterans Affirmation Action.

Res. 115 (Utah) Outlines policy on military dischargee unemployment benefits.

Res. 118 (Utah) Supports tax credits for employers who maintain salary levels for National Guard and Reservists called to active duty.

Res. 126 (Utah) Supports federal assistance for veteran-owned businesses.

Res. 132 (S.D.) Seeks full restoration of VA home loan guaranty for veterans whose VA debt was written off by U.S. vs. Whitney.

Res. 134 (S.D.) Supports veterans preference at all levels of employment.

Res. 186 (Texas) Supports full funding for the National Veterans Training Institute.

Res. 189 (Texas) Supports Local Veterans Employment Representatives and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program.

Res. 195 (Texas) Urges full funding for state Employment Services Agencies.

Res. 236 (Ind.) Asks VA to consider the VA Medical Center at Marion, Ind., as a residential setting for homeless veterans.

Res. 296 (Wis.) Supports improvement of re-employment rights and benefits of veterans.

Res. 299 (Wis.) Urges that federally funded state agencies be required to post their job openings with State Employment Services.

Res. 301 (Wis.) Outlines policy on veterans preference and the Job Training Partnership Act.

Res. 304 (Wis.) Outlines policy on the Veterans Employment and Training Service.

Res. 305 (Wis.) Outlines policy on LVERs.

Res. 311 (Wis.) Urges increase to funding Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act.

Res. 312 (Wis.) Supports dislocated workers' programs.

Res. 313 (Wis.) Supports the use of phased-down or deactivated government facilities for housing, training homeless veterans.

FOREIGN RELATIONS
Joseph J. Frank (Mo.), Chairman

Res. 18 (Tenn.) Opposes attacking North Korea without congressional consent; demands full mobilization of South Korean forces; urges North Korea be warned of the consequences.

Res. 19 (Colo.) Outlines policy on the Middle East.

Res. 20 (Colo.) Supports U.S. pursuit of policies against aggression and terrorism by Iran; supports pressuring Iran to cease human rights violations and interference with neighboring countries.

Res. 28 (Mexico) Urges Medicare be extended to U.S. citizens located outside the United States.

Res. 30 (Mexico) Outlines policy on Mexico.

Res. 31 (Mexico) Supports U.S. participation with Enterprise for Americas Initiative.

Res. 32 (Mexico) Urges government cooperation and funding for Latin American countries to destroy illegal drug trafficking.

Res. 34 (Mexico) Urges the President to condemn and curtail Cuba's role in drug trafficking.

Res. 35 (Mexico) Outlines policy on Cuba.

Res. 36 (Mexico) Outlines policy on Central America.

Res. 172 (Idaho) Urges Congress to discontinue foreign aid to countries that cannot account for how funds are used.

Res. 204 (N.Y.) Opposes using U.S. military force against Haiti; supports reinstating democracy in Haiti.

Res. 205 (N.Y.) Urges formal and proper recognition by the U.S. government of the crew of the USS Liberty, and of her 171 wounded and 34 killed in action.

Res. 206 (N.Y.) Urges all Americans to fly the POW/MIA flag until a satisfactory accounting of every POW/MIA is made.

Res. 233 (Philippines) Recommends increased military aid to South Korea and a strong U.S. military presence and increasing pressure to stop nuclear weapon development in North Korea.

Res. 279 (Md.) Outlines policy on hostages.

Res. 280 (Md.) Supports funding for international programs to provide other nations news and information on democracy, free enterprise; supports supplying accurate reports about the suppression of freedom and aggression.

Res. 281 (Md.) Opposes nuclear proliferation.

Res. 282 (Md.) Supports policies that provide for free trade and military cooperation with Canada.

Res. 283 (Md.) Outlines policy on strategic nuclear strikes.

Res. 284 (Md.) Urges modernization of Turkish military without restrictions pertaining to NATO; urges Turkey be treated as a lasting friend of the United States.

Res. 285 (Md.) Outlines policy on the Panama Canal.

Res. 286 (Md.) Supports renegotiating or renouncing current conflicting treaties with Panama.

Res. 318 (Kan.) Supports veterans preference overseas.

Res. 330 (Mo.) Urges restriction, accounting, control and enforcement of foreign lobbying in the United States.

Res. 331 (Mo.) Urges the U.S. government to adopt a policy of "Democratic Activism."

Res. 333 (Mo.) Recommends continued support of NATO.

Res. 334 (Mo.) Urges the government to cut Japanese auto imports to the United States and to encourage Japan to follow equitable trading practices.

Res. 335 (Mo.) Opposes U.S. military involvement, but supports humanitarian efforts, in the former country of Yugoslavia.

Res. 336 (Mo.) Outlines foreign relations policy.

Res. 337 (Mo.) Seeks equitable and efficient United Nations operations, but opposes placing U.S. troops under foreign command, except in instances of vital American interests.

Res. 355 (Alaska) Supports reunificatoin of China and Taiwan, removal of arms sales limitations to Taiwan and seeks the military provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act ensured.

Res. 401 (Comm.) Outlines priority POW/MIA actions.

Res. 402 (Comm.) Outlines policy on POW/MIA issues and Vietnam.

Res. 403 (Comm.) Opposes using time as sole measurement for declaration of death of an MIA.

Res. 406 (Comm.) Outlines policy on WWII, Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs and opposes normalization with North Korea until a full accounting is made.

Res. 407 (Comm.) Outlines policy on future POW/MIAs.

Res. 408 (Comm.) Urges the federal government to designate April 9 as POW/MIA National Recognition Day.

Res. 409 (Comm.) Opposes congressional appropriations for international lending agencies to loan money for aid and comfort of groups hostile to the United States or who refuse a full accounting of POW/MIAs.

Res. 410 (Comm.) Calls for aid, technical assistance and moral leadership to support democracy in Eastern Europe.

Res. 411 (Comm.) Supports changes in the former Soviet Union that lead to democracy, free markets; calls for those nations to increase cooperation on POW/MIA issue.

Please turn page

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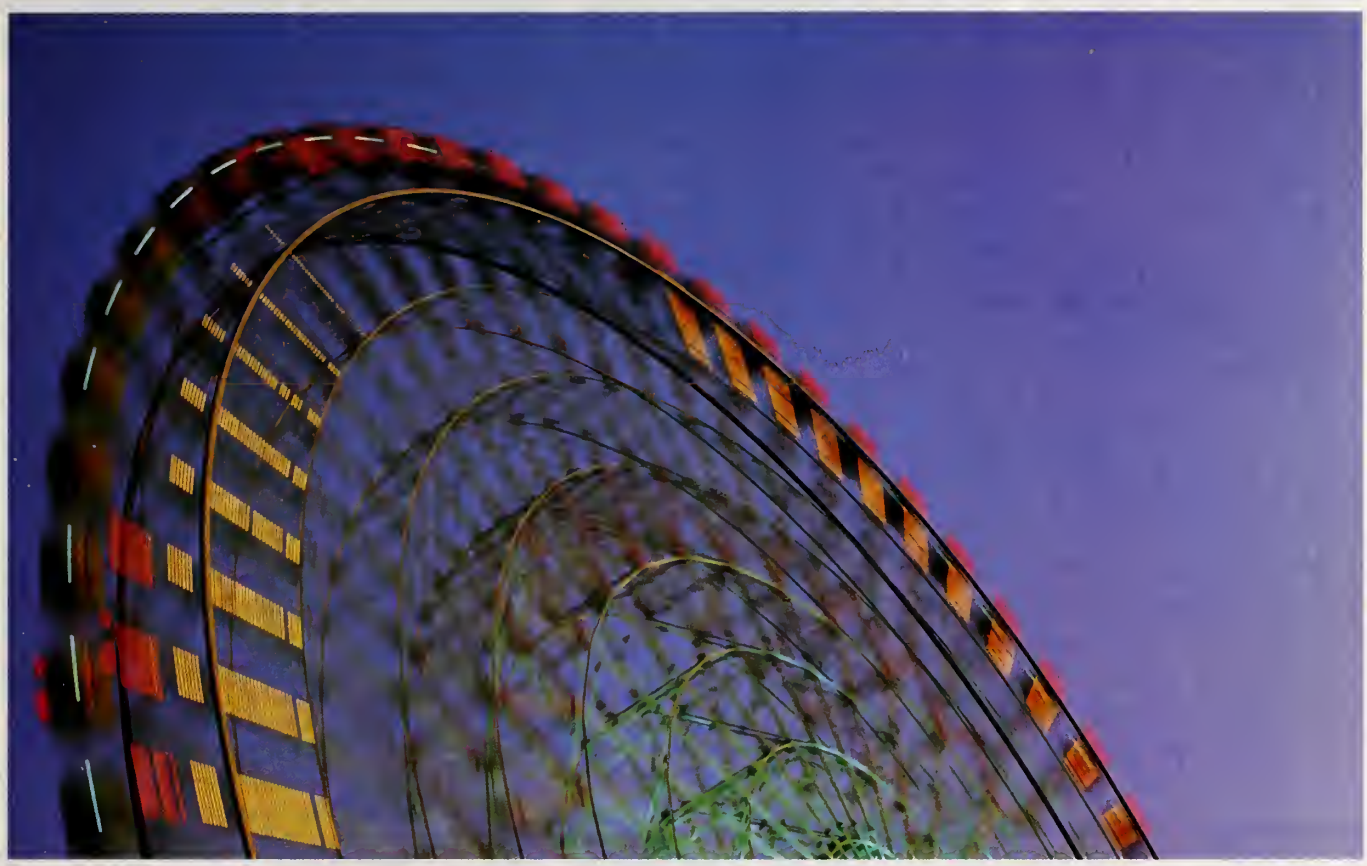

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Res. 412 (Comm.) Opposes most-favored-nation status for China until human rights problems, nuclear proliferation, and PDW/MIA issues from Korea and Vietnam are resolved.

Res. 413 (Comm.) Supports the Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped operation.

Res. 414 (Comm.) Opposes normalization or most-favored-nation status for Vietnam until Vietnam adopts a democratic form of government.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS
Herman G. Harrington (N.Y.), Chairman

Res. 152 (Ill.) Authorizes examining the origin of the 1944 GI Bill of Rights to determine if Salem, Ill., is its birthplace.

Res. 194 (Tex.) Recommends a U.S. postage stamp be issued to honor Audie L. Murphy.

Res. 208 (Ariz.) Outlines policy against cancer.

Res. 391 (Comm.) Calls for Legion to participate in reviewing drafts of the Smithsonian Institution's exhibition about the end of World War II and the display of the Enola Gay.

Res. 404 (Comm.) Expresses appreciation to Minneapolis as host city to the 1994 National Convention.

Res. 405 (Comm.) Urges increasing volunteer mileage income tax deduction.

Res. 419 (Comm.) Outlines the Minneapolis Affirmation.

NATIONAL SECURITY
Anthony G. Jordan (Maine) Chairman

Res. 26 (Colo.) Urges speedy construction of a replacement facility for Fitzsimons Army Medical Center.

Res. 56 (N.J.) Urges the federal government to sell unserviceable training ships and replace them with modern vessels for the maritime academies.

Res. 57 (N.J.) Supports full federal funding for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Res. 71 (Mont.) Urges Congress to expedite funding and production of additional sea and airlift assets for rapid deployment.

Res. 72 (Mont.) Supports funding for aerospace production and research.

Res. 120 (Utah) Supports domestic energy production.

Res. 121 (Utah) Supports the current federal oil and gas leasing system; opposes changes that would affect national security.

Res. 122 (Utah) Supports curtailment of additional wilderness areas.

Res. 123 (Utah) Opposes legislation to close off Arctic National Wildlife Refuge resources to oil exploration and development.

Res. 127 (Utah) Supports development of nuclear energy and proper waste disposal.

Res. 146 (Ill.) Urges Congress to stop passing new crime laws and concentrate on enforcing the penalties of laws already in existence.

Res. 166 (Va.) Supports the Regional Information Sharing System Program as a tool for law enforcement.

Res. 170 (N.C.) Outlines policy on combating violent crime in America.

Res. 171 (N.C.) Outlines policy on recognition of law enforcement officials.

Res. 215 (Comm.) Supports a strong national defense.

Res. 216 (D.C.) Opposes increasing military commissary surcharges and supports full funding for the commissary system.

Res. 217 (D.C.) Outlines policy on commitment of peacekeeping and humanitarian military forces.

Res. 218 (D.C.) Urges expansion of the JRDTC program; encourages Departments and Posts to participate in the Legion JRDTC Achievement Program.

Res. 240 (Md.) Supports maintaining combat readiness and modernization of the Air Force.

Res. 241 (Md.) Urges Congress to maintain National Guard levels for national and civil emergencies.

Res. 242 (Md.) Urges enforcement of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 to promote flagging of domestic ships under the U.S. Flag.

Res. 244 (Md.) Supports maintaining the high school and college RDTC program.

Res. 245 (Md.) Supports maintaining military draft system.

Res. 246 (Md.) Outlines policy on maintaining the quality of life for active and retired military.

Res. 248 (Md.) Urges full funding for the U.S. Coast Guard and supports construction of a third Polar icebreaker.

Res. 250 (Md.) Supports theater missile defense systems.

Res. 251 (Md.) Urges the government to honor its commitments to veterans for honorable service.

Res. 252 (Md.) Supports DoD health care reform for military beneficiaries.

Res. 255 (Md.) Supports retention of the Selective Service System.

Res. 256 (Md.) Urges realistic manning, training and equipping of the National Guard and Reserve.

Res. 260 (Md.) Opposes foreign ownership of critical defense industries.

Res. 261 (Md.) Supports development of an integrated defense industrial base.

Res. 263 (Md.) Urges preservation of America's defense industrial base.

Res. 266 (Md.) Encourages full funding and modernization of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

Res. 268 (Md.) Supports the national space program.

Res. 269 (Md.) Supports increased transitional assistance benefits for Reservists.

Res. 270 (Md.) Opposes homosexuals serving in the military.

Res. 271 (Md.) Outlines policy on the Former Spouses Protection Act.

Res. 272 (Md.) Supports concurrent receipt of military separation pay and VA disability compensation.

Res. 276 (Md.) Urges modernization of Malcolm Grow Medical Center in Maryland.

Res. 278 (Md.) Supports concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability compensation.

Res. 319 (Fla.) Supports funding of the Maritime Security and Trade Act of 1994 to develop a modernized Merchant Marine fleet.

Res. 415 (Comm.) Supports the Second Amendment.

Res. 416 (Comm.) Outlines policy on service of women in the military.

Res. 417 (Comm.) Supports U.S. Naval training.

Res. 418 (Comm.) Supports maintaining Army strength and combat readiness.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION
Chester F. Stellar (Ohio), Chairman

Res. 41 (Neb.) Urges amending law to allow parents in nursing homes who receive DIC to be entitled to a minimum of $90 per month from VA.

Res. 49 (N.D.) Outlines policy on Agent Orange.

Res. 50 (N.D.) Outlines policy on former PDWs.

Res. 52 (S.D.) Outlines policy on DIC rates.

Res. 53 (N.D.) Opposes automatic cost-of-living indexing for disability compensation and supports an increase in rates.

Res. 58 (N.H.) Urges funding for the State Veteran Homes Program.

Res. 66 (Mont.) Supports rescinding means testing for VA benefits.

Res. 78 (Pa.) Urges increasing travel pay to 15¢ per mile for service-connected veterans.

Res. 81 (N.C.) Supports special pensions for WWI veterans.

Res. 82 (N.C.) Outlines policy on Desert Storm disabilities.

Res. 83 (N.C.) Supports restoration of special consideration for age for entitlement to nonservice-connected pensions.

Res. 84 (N.C.) Urges extension of current presumptive period to five years from date of discharge for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

Res. 85 (N.C.) Reaffirms The American Legion Proposal for Veterans Health Care.

Res. 139 (S.D.) Outlines policy on clear and unmistakable error for Court of Veterans Appeals.

Res. 140 (S.D.) Urges amending USC eligibility for VA health care for nonservice-connected disability to at least one day of active service during wartime.

Res. 141 (S.D.) Supports protection of disability rating after 10 years.

Res. 149 (Ill.) Seeks federal funding for a VA outpatient clinic in LaSalle, Ill.

Res. 150 (Ill.) Urges establishing a national cemetery at Joliet Army Ammunition Plant.

Res. 179 (Texas) Urges Congress to make official Vietnam era from Dec. 22, 1961, through May 7, 1975.

Res. 202 (N.Y.) Supports authorizing VA to make cemetery grants to state or political subdivisions.

Res. 231 (Philippines) Seeks to extend operations of the Manila VA Regional Office beyond 2000.

Res. 238 (Ind.) Urges legislation be passed allowing veterans to retain their compensation while in VA nursing homes.

Res. 239 (Ind.) Supports payments to spouses receiving DIC while in nursing homes.

Res. 320 (Fla.) Supports funding for needed VA construction projects.

Res. 326 (Fla.) Outlines policy on the National Cemetery System.

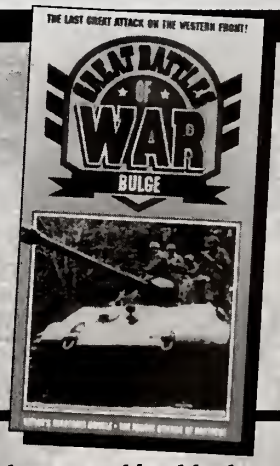
Res. 327 (Fla.) Supports improvements in the disability and death pension program.

Res. 342 (Ohio) Urges equity for VA survivors benefits comparable to Social Security Survivors benefits for reinstatement after death or divorce.

For a copy of the complete text of any resolution, write to:

The American Legion
Office of Archives
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Battle For The Bulge On Video



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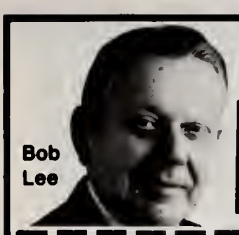

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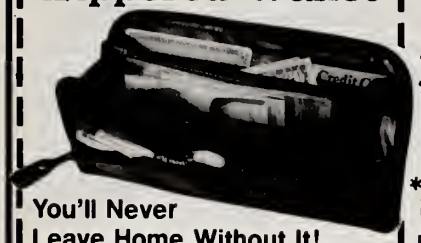

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PROBE MAY HELP VETERANS' FAMILIES

VETERANS' families suffering with birth defects and other reproductive problems have prompted a Congressional investigation to determine if their problems are linked to exposure to radiation, Agent Orange and other toxic substances.

A panel of scientific experts, appointed by West Virginia Sen. Jay Rockefeller and Minnesota Sen. Paul Wellstone, will determine if there is enough evidence to warrant a scientific study.

The investigation comes on the heels of emotional testimony given by veterans and their families during a hearing before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee last summer. The General Accounting Office supported that testimony with its own report to Sen. Rockefeller.

It said the Department of Defense did "virtually nothing" to warn Persian Gulf veterans about potential dangers to their reproductive health posed by service in the Gulf.

"The American Legion has believed for years that there is a direct link between birth defects and radiation, and there is strong evidence indicating a similar relationship between birth defects and toxic chemicals such as Agent Orange," said Chet Stellar, chairman of the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. "This is the first time the government has seriously addressed the issue."

If the panel concludes there is a relationship, other hurdles must still be crossed before affected family members could be helped by VA. Currently, regulations prohibit VA from treating veterans' families, except in rare circumstances.

The argument for linking birth defects to some aspects of military service was strengthened by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) latest review of dioxin in September. EPA concluded that exposure to dioxin may result in a number of non-cancer related problems, including embryo development, reproductive difficulties and immune system suppression. Dioxin is the key element found in defoliants such as Agent Orange, which is already linked to nine cancers.

Rockefeller, who chairs the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, said that if the panel recommends a scientific study, he will introduce legislation this year to fund it.

Disability Checks

Currently, when a disabled American veteran dies, the spouse has to return the final month's government disability check, even if the veteran dies on the last day of the month. This requirement would stop if HR 4088, introduced by Florida Rep. Tom Lewis and passed by the House, has similar support in the Senate.

The bill applies only to those veterans who die from causes other than their service-connected disabilities. HR 4088 would allow their spouses to keep the final checks, but does not make the change retroactive.

Under provisions of the bill, surviving spouses of veterans who die directly from their disabilities would still be required to return the final month's check, since they are eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation.

Gays Not Dunned

The Department of Defense (DoD) has announced it will not try to recoup education money paid to Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) candidates who do not complete their tour of duty requirements after declaring themselves homosexuals.

This is a major change from previous policy that required ROTC candidates in all branches of the service to reimburse the government if they failed to complete their military obligations after receiving scholarships and income. This new policy does not apply to the service academies, DoD officials said.

Under the old rules, students were asked directly before they signed up for ROTC whether or not they were homosexual. Under the government's new policy of "don't ask, don't tell," this question cannot be asked.

Under the new rules, which also affect re-enlistment bonuses for enlisted personnel, funds could be recouped if candidates were found guilty of misconduct, or if the government could prove that students announced their homosexuality to avoid their military obligations.

The average amount of money an ROTC student receives in scholarships and income during four years of school is approximately $40,000.

Louisiana Bonuses

Residents of Louisiana who served in the Merchant Marine during World War II and Louisiana veterans who served during Desert Shield/Desert Storm are eligible for a $250 bonus from the state.

In addition, survivors of Persian Gulf veterans from Louisiana who died because of their service in the Gulf are eligible for a $1,000 bonus.

The bonus for the merchant seamen is limited to those who honorably served from Sept. 16, 1940, through July 25, 1947, and who were granted veteran status by one of the military services. Surviving spouses of merchant seamen may also be eligible for the bonus. Deadline for filing is July 1, 1999.

Desert Storm/Desert Shield veterans who served in the Gulf, or their surviving spouse, and are residents of Louisiana also are eligible for a state bonus. The veterans must have received the Southwest Asia Service Medal and served between Aug. 2, 1990, and April 11, 1991. Deadline for filing is April 11, 1996.

Bonus applications and further information may be obtained by writing: Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, Bonus Division, P.O. Box 94095, Capitol Station, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095; 1-504-922-0500. □

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THE VETERANS' CONNECTION

VETS is a service that provides information about military reunions, helps veterans find old buddies and arranges reunions, travel and accommodations.

REUNIONS INFORMATION

This month there are 823 military reunions listed on these pages. In addition, VETS has information on more than 12,000 other reunions. Call VETS weekdays, 12 noon to 8 p.m., CDT. Calls cost $1.95 per minute. The average call takes two minutes.

1 (900) 737–VETS
1 (900) 737–8387

If you know the VETS five-digit number assigned to your ship or unit, please give it to the operator. The number is printed after each outfit's name listed in the magazine. If you don't know the VETS number or do not see your ship or unit listed in the magazine, VETS operators may still be able to provide you reunion information. Units are enrolling in VETS daily.

PLANNING A REUNION

VETS will help you arrange your outfit's reunion at no cost and save money in the process. Finders/Seeker services are included free for VETS managed reunions. VETS also will maintain reunion coordinators' mailing lists and unit archives, and handle all reunion publicity needs. Tell VETS what you want, and they will do the work.

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Write **Finders/Seekers, P.O. Box 10088, Columbia, MO 65205-4000;** or call **(800) 449-VETS.** Mastercard/VISA accepted.

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion coordinators can enroll their units in VETS by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to VETS, P.O. Box 10088, Columbia, MO 65205-4000. Unit names are published one time per year.

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1st Inf. Div.: Officers (WWI/WWII/Vietnam/Pers.Gulf) #15695
2nd Arm'd Div., 82nd Rcn. Bn.-Co. A #19096
2nd Chem. Mortar Bn. (Korea 1950/53) #14861
2nd Inf. Div., 9th Rgt., L Co. (Korea, 1951-53) #16814
3rd FA Tng. Bn., E Btry. (Ft.Sill FARTC 1952) #20575
3rd Inf. Div., 7th Rgt., A Co. (Korea) 1953 #16443
4th, 5th, 124th, 125th Trans CMDS #19066
4th Arm'd Div., 67th Rgt., 2nd Tank (M) Bn. (Texas & Ger.) 1957-59 #18747
4th Arm'd Div. Arty., 126th Ord. #13202
4th Arm'd Div. Arty., 14th AFA, 2nd Bty. #13194
4th Arm'd Div. Arty., 16th AFA, 1st Bty. #13195
4th Arm'd Div. Arty., 195th AAA #13200
4th Arm'd Div. Arty., 197th AFA #13201
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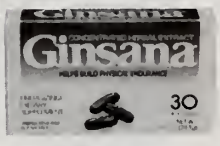

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USS Lubbock APA-197 #13126
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USS Mahan DD-364/DLG-11/DDG-42 Assn. #18312
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USS Matagorda AVP-22 #17923
USS McCandless DE-1084 Plank Owners #14994
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USS Merganser AMS-26 Crews (Korea, 1950-54) #13227
USS Mergrez AK 126 #19080
USS Midway CV-41 Assn. #22734
USS Mispillion AO-105 (Korea) #15823
USS Mission Bay CVE-59 #18408
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USS Nantahala AO-60 #11345
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USS Neches AO-5 (WWII) #21564
USS Nespelen AOG-55 #19008
USS New Kent APA-217 #14943
USS Niagara AFS-3, USS Castor AKS-1 #13744
USS Niagra Falls AFS-3/USS Castor AKS-1 (1967-70) #13890
USS North Carolina BB-55 Assn. #17623
USS Ocklawaha AO-84 #18908
USS Odax SS-484 #11271
USS Oneida APA-221 #14565
USS O'Neill DE188 #19089
USS Orleck DD-886 Assn. #22539
USS Parks DE-165 #18727
USS Pasig AW-3 #18384
USS Pawcatuck AO-108 #11625
USS Pennsylvania BB-38 Assn (Officers,Crew,Mar) and SSBN-735 #17778
USS Perch SS(I & II) VE (All Sub. Vets WWII invited) #11628
USS Pilot AM-104 #13722
USS Pollack SSN-603 #18743
USS Portsmouth CL-102 (Plankowners, WWII) #13907
USS President Monroe AP104 #19087
USS President Warfield IX-169 (Normandy, 1944) #16107
USS Prime MSO-466 (Far East Cruise 1965) #18835
USS Purdy DD-734 #17965
USS Raleigh CL-7 Assn. #17744
USS Rendova CVE-114 #30095
USS Renville APA-227 #22306
USS Requin SS/SSR-481 #22649
USS Rich DD/DDE-820/DE-695 #11396
USS Rich DE-695 Survivors Assn. #13711
USS Roanoke CL-145 #11418
USS Rockwall APA-230 #23070
USS Rowe DD-564 #14396
USS Sacramento AOE-1 #13720
USS Salvager ARS(D)-3 (1946-65),USS Windlass ARS-D4 #12736
USS Sampson DDG-10 #16279
USS San Pablo AVP-30 #22038
USS Satyr ARL-23 (1943/56) #11672
USS Satyr ARL-23 (Riverines) Vietnam #22978
USS Sebec AO-87 #12604
USS Serrano AGS-24 #19063
USS Sims DE-154/APD-50 #17854
USS Smith DD-378 #18355
USS St Croix APA-231 (1944/45) #14585
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USS Twining DD-540 (1943/71) #18325
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USS Vesuvius AE-15 (WWII) #17095
USS Vicksburg CL-86 #17518
USS Vulcan AR-5 (1943/46) #10779
USS Wadleigh DD-689 (1943-63) #13882
USS Wadleigh DD-689 (Nat'l Assn. Plankowners) WWII #13713
USS Wallis Island (42-43) #19064
USS Wexford County LST 1168 #19088
USS William Pratt (DLG-13) #19123
USS Windlass ARS(D)-4 (1946-65) #14954
USS Xanthus AR-19 #18262
USS Yakutat AVP-32 #20464
USS Young DD-580 (WWII) #12145
V-12 Officer Trng. Program (College of St. Thomas, 1943-46) #13693
V-12 Prog. (Millsaps Coll.) 1942-45 #13894
V-12 Prog. N.W. MO STC Univ. (1943-44) #13869
V-5 Preflight Pgm. (Chadron St. Col., NE 1942-44) #13915
V-5 Program, St. Olaf College #19049
V-5/V-12, Denison Univ. #18757
VA-23, Attack Sq. (Black Knights) #14934
VC-35 Assn. #19069
VC-41 SQ. #21138
VC-84 Squadron #28290
VC-94 (WWII) #17844
VF-13 #13745
VF-33/VT-33 (WWII) #14628
VF-51 (Far East Tour w/CVA-47) 1954 #14988
VP-214 (WWII) #22533
VP-40 (Seaplane Era) #17597
VP-69 Assn. #13868
VP-891/VP-69 #13709
VP-8/VPML-8/VP-201 "Patrol Sq. 8 Alumni Assn." #12648
VP/VPB-214 Patrol Sq. WWII #19098
VR-4 #18878
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VT-86 "Torpedo Squadron 86" (WWII) #10681
VX-2 Chincoteague Vets #13899
WAVES: NAS Barber's Pt. #14376
YMS-159 (1944-46) #13667
YMS 267 #19045
YMS 326 (WWII) #19118
YMS-Sailors WWII #19113

Air Force

1 Nouasseur Air Base (1951-63) Moroccan Reunion Assn. #13535
1st Aircraft Assembly Sq. #12517
2nd Bomb Grp. Assn (1921/47) & 2nd Bomb Wing (1947/91) #15135
3rd Aviation Fld. Dpt. Sq. (1951/53) #11664
4th Ftr. Int. Grp. (Korea K-13/K-14) #14940
6th Photo Tech / 548th Recon. Tech. Sqdn. (Yakota, Japan 1947/50) #11341
11th/12th Tac. Recon. Sqdns., 6166 Weather FLT (1950-54) Korea #18951
19th Air Base Grp., 19th Installation Sq. (Kadena 1953/55) #22663
28th ABGP-Hdq Sec Sqdr #19052
30th Comm. Sq. (Offutt AFB, Omaha, NE 1950-56) #14950
32nd Photo Recon. Sq. (San Severo, Italy, 1944-45) WWII #13763
33rd Air Div., Attch ACtW & Ftr Sq. #15041
47th TC Sq. (Forbes AFB, KS 1966-68) #14968
48th TC Sq. (Forbes AFB, KA 1965-68) #14969
49th Ftr./Bomb. Grp. (Taegu, Korea 1950-51) #13676
67th Tac. Recon. Wing, 6166th Air Weath. Recon. Flt. (Korea, 1950-53) #14014
80th Air Depot Wing, Nouasseur Air Base (Morocco, 1951/55) #13143
82nd Bomb Grp., 327th Bomb Sq. (1951/54) #11747
82nd FLTG "Mobileer/Fld.Trainers" #13979
84th Bomb Sq. (L) Jet #18796
86th, 87th, 320th, 321st Transport Sq., 519th, 520th Serv. Sq. #13989
95th Fighter Sq. (WWII) #14964
98th Bomb Grp./Wing Assn. (All Years) #10890
102nd AC & W Sq. (1951-53) #15060
102nd Observation Squadron #22845
156th Mil. Airlift Grp. (Pilots, Nav., Flt. Surg. NCANG) #13690
276th MP Co., 792nd MP Bn. (N.Afr. & CBI Campaigns) #18721
317th Ftr. Intercepter Sq. #15108
319th Ftr. Int. Sq. (Bunker Hill, Korea, Homestead) #15094
511th AC&W Grp: 613th, 847th, 848th Sqdns Japan (47-54) #19053
517th Air Police Sq. (Wiesbaden, Germany) #13715
556th Recon. Sq. - Det. 2 (Cam Ranh, Vietnam 1968-69) #14966
801st MAES (Japan and Korea, 1951-53) #13167
908th XO Career Field (All Grades) #13871
3502nd USAF Recruiting Gp. #13919
3742nd Basic Trng. Gp. (Sheppard AFB, 1950-53) #13683
4050th A.R. Sq., Westover AFB (1955-58) #13992
4082nd Air Base Grp. (Goose Bay LA) 1959-60 #14920
6147th Tact. Cont. Grp. "Mosquito Assn."(Korea) #10337
6922 Security Wing (1965-72) #19091
7100th AP Sq. (USAFE-Wiesbaden, Ger. 58/62) #21308
7499th Spt. Grp. #21608
Air Force Woman Officers #19072
BAD 2 Assn. #18828
Charleston AF Station Reunion (All Units, 1951-82) #14919
Civil Air Patrol, Buffalo Sq. #1 #17171
F.E. Warren AFB, 3450th Tech. Trng. Grp., HQ Sq. (1951/54) #21502
Flight Instr. Pensacola NAS (1944-45) #17169
Pilot Class 54 A-B-C #19115
Pilot Class 55-V (Incl. Hondo/Reese) #14005
RAF Station Manston #13767
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2nd Air Div. Assn. #19111
2ND TCG, 8TH TCS #19019
3ACG, 318TH TCS #19020
4th Ferrying Grp., ATC: Nashville & Memphis (WWII) #13061
5th Bomb Grp.(H), 23rd Bomb. Sq., 13th AF (WWII) #16922
5th Bomb Grp.(H), 72nd Bomb Sq., 13th AF (WWII) #14279
9TH AFA, NTL. #19017
9TH AFA, TC REP. #19016
9th SERV SQ (PTO WWII) #19012
9TH TCC, HQS TCS #19015
9TH TCG, PFDR. #19021
9TH TCS #19023
10TH TCG, 2ND TCS #19014
10th TCG, 5th TCS #19013
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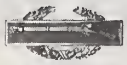

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ENOLA GAY

Continued from page 28

why The American Legion was opposed to the exhibit.

"The preponderance of visual material, personal perspectives and descriptive narrative, taken as a whole, prompts the unmistakable conclusion that America's enemy in the latter days of World War II was defeated and demoralized, ultimately the victim of racism and revenge, rather than a ruthless aggressor whose expansionist aims and war fervor yielded more than a decade of horror and death for millions of the world's people," he wrote.

The firestorm over the exhibit was further fueled by the decades-long neglect the Enola Gay suffered at the hands of the Smithsonian. The aircraft's final flight was piloted by the atomic mission commander, then-Col. Paul W. Tibbets, Jr., who delivered the fully operational B-29 into the museum's custody in 1949. The airplane was expected to be restored and displayed in the Air and Space Museum, but neither occurred.

> *WE WANT THIS exhibit to succeed, but we insist that it be accurate, that it present the service and sacrifice of America's veterans as the legislative charge to the Institution mandates.*
>
> **—Nat'l Cmdr. Detweiler**

IN 1953, the Enola Gay was parked in a field at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., where it spent the next eight years enduring such indignities as theft, vandalism, severe weather and bird droppings. Finally, in 1960 and 1961, the Smithsonian disassembled the aircraft and warehoused the parts in the Paul E. Garber Preservation, Restoration and Storage Facility in Silver Hill, Md.

It remains there today, still in pieces, largely restored but as yet unassembled.

To veterans of the 509th Composite Bomb Group, from which the Enola Gay's crew was drawn, and most World War II veterans, it was a pattern of neglect and disinterest that indicated shame and denial on the part of official Washington.

Not so, argue Smithsonian officials. They say that a shortage of dollars and space forced the museum to store the massive plane — with its 141-foot wingspan — outside. Regardless, the Enola Gay's mistreatment left the museum with a huge credibility gap years before "The Last Act" was ever envisioned.

Nor has Harwit, formerly a Cornell University astrophysicist now in his seventh year as NASM director, cooled the controversy. A 1988 *Washington Post* profile story painted the director as a revolutionary bent on radically changing the Air and Space Museum, and his comments supported the portrayal. Referring to an upcoming show on strategic bombing (the targeting of cities instead of military sites), Harwit said, "Essentially, we'd like to have the exhibit as a counterpoint to the WWII gallery we have now, which portrays the heroism of the airmen, but neglects to mention in any real sense the misery of war."

Meanwhile, in Smithsonian's *Air & Space* magazine, Harwit noted that the Enola Gay would be "displayed in a setting that will recall the history of strategic bombing in World War II.... We need to ask: How effective were the raids militarily?"

Veterans reacted with resentment and bewilderment. "'How effective was strategic bombing'?" Nicks reiterates, sounding incredulous. "In Japan, it was *very* effective."

Five years later, in 1993, the veterans' worst fears were confirmed when the Smithsonian released a three-page outline of an exhibition to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

THE DOCUMENT, which evolved into "The Last Act" script, pledged to address "the widely debated questions surrounding the necessity and morality of the atomic bombings," adding that visitors' attitudes would range "from a dogmatic belief in the official explanation that dropping the bomb prevented a bloody invasion of Japan, to an unshakable conviction

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ENOLA GAY

Continued from page 64

that Hiroshima and Nagasaki were war crimes."

"War crimes"? To men old enough to remember Pearl Harbor, the Bataan Death March and the rape of Nanking, the phrase cut like a knife, even when attributed to visitors. Nicks voiced his objections in a meeting with Smithsonian officials, and the script was revised, excluding expressions such as "war crimes" and "morality."

Former aerial photographer W. Burr Bennett Jr. of Northbrook, Ill., a driving force on the Enola Gay committee, contends the museum should exhibit the plane with only a simple label identifying its role in history.

Smithsonian curator Michael Neufeld disagrees. "I don't think you can display this aircraft with no label on it except 'This is the plane that dropped the first atomic bomb,'" Neufeld says. "It's an icon: This is the symbol of the nuclear age. And it's clear that this is an object that needs a lot of context."

But the context is precisely the problem, contends John T. Correll, editor-in-chief of *Air Force Magazine*. His analysis of the original script found numerous examples of imbalance, including 49 photos of Japanese casualties, but only three of American casualties; and 66 pages on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, along with 13 on Japanese casualties — but only four pages covering Japanese aggression.

THE American Legion agrees that more balanced evidence of suffering on all sides is one key to breaking the deadlock, but is not an effective measure of the emotional and philosophical impact of the exhibit.

"We didn't get into this because we wanted equal depictions of suffering. We didn't get into this to trade gore for gore," National Commander Detweiler told reporters at a September 21 conference. "It's the overall perception we're concerned about that we're asking for an accurate portrayal of an exhibit that doesn't editorialize. We are demanding an accurate portrayal of the facts as they existed when the decision was made at that period of time.

"We are aware of recent historical discoveries that appear to discount the incredibly high estimates of potential casualties. We also know that the comparisons used to arrive at the lower estimates are questionable. Comparisons to the Normandy Invasion, for example, do not take into account Japan's vow to fight to the very last schoolchild — and that Japan was organizing and training to do just that."

The debate, according to the National Commander, is inappropriate for an exhibit which purports to display a pivotal event in history. That debate belongs to the historians and the academicians, he said. But it rages even within the walls of the Air and Space Museum.

Smithsonian administrators seem at odds over the script. "We can assure everybody that this is a scrupulously honest and balanced show," Department of Aeronautics chairman Tom Crouch said in April. Yet that same month, director Harwit acknowledged the 559-page script's unevenness. In internal correspondence, he wrote, "[A] second reading shows that we do have a lack of balance, and that much of the criticism that has been levied against us is understandable."

The veterans' letter-writing campaign has prompted Mississippi Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, to question Smithsonian officials about the exhibition. "We'll raise some Cain" if it isn't balanced, Montgomery vowed.

IN A March 30 letter to Smithsonian secretary Robert McCormick Adams, Kansas Sen. Nancy Kassebaum suggested that the institution give the plane to a museum that would display it "with understanding and pride." Adams responded that the script "has been carefully scrutinized for accuracy and balance by a committee consisting of some of the nation's leading scholars, including Dr. Richard Hallion, Chief of the U.S.A.F. Center for Air Force History."

But when asked his opinion, Hallion said both the original script and the first revision missed the mark. "It has come a long way," he says. "They started with an exhibit that was an outright failure and have taken it to maybe a 'C'." But it's still unbalanced, Hallion says.

The Smithsonian, which draws 85 percent of its operating budget from the federal government, can ill afford to anger Congress. Already, rumblings in Congress threaten the museum's funding. Senators and representatives

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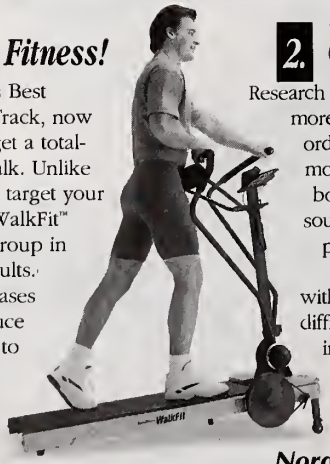

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ENOLA GAY

Continued from page 66

are weighing in with condemnation of the exhibit, and ominous legislative pressures loom large on the exhibit's horizon. The Legion's stern warning in its May 1994 NEC resolution condemning the exhibit as then proposed, added to the Museum's problems:

American Legion Res. 22 "strongly objects to the use of the Enola Gay . . . in an exhibit which questions the moral and political wisdom involved in the dropping of the atomic bomb." The position draws force from U.S. law, which specifies how the Smithsonian Institution is to treat military exhibits: "The valor and sacrificial service of the men and women of the Armed Forces shall be portrayed as an inspiration to the present and future generations of America."

In the face of this mounting pressure, Hallion notes, the museum formed a new committee to redo the script. The group produced yet another revision on May 31; however, the document failed to silence its critics.

"The revised script contains a number of commendable changes," wrote *Air Force* magazine editor Correll in a review of this reworking, "but the extent of the revision is far less than we expected.... It is still as partisan in interpretation that I believe many Americans — and most veterans will find objectionable."

EVEN Tibbets, the mission commander, recently uttered a rare public statement on the proposed Enola Gay display, calling it "a package of insults" in a June speech to the Air Force Sergeants Association (See "'Our Job Was To Win,'" Page 28.).

Whether or not the Smithsonian's script ever becomes objective, Tibbets remains unswayed by modern-day angst over his mission of a half century ago. "Those of us who gained that victory have nothing to be ashamed of, neither do we offer any apology," he said. "The million or so of us remaining will die believing that we made the world a better place."

As the pressure from every direction continued to mount on the Smithsonian, The American Legion National Convention last September passed Res. 391. While withholding final condemnation of the exhibit, the resolution set forth a number of conditions the NASM would have to meet in order to avoid the Legion's ultimate and resolute opposition. The continuing discussions and review must lead, according to Detweiler, to an exhibit that conforms to Legion expectations.

"We want this exhibit to succeed, but we insist that it be accurate, that it present the service and sacrifice of America's veterans as the legislative charge to the Institution mandates, and that the role of the Japanese as the cause of the conflict be fully detailed," he says.

"But if the Smithsonian cannot produce an accurate exhibition, one that is faithful to our broader responsibilities to the people of the United States, we will have no choice but to exercise the options available to us to actively oppose the exhibit," says Detweiler.

In addition to the on-going line-by-line review of the script of the Enola Gay exhibit, Harwit pledged that the Legion will:

- Be included in all future review and commentary on script revisions, and
- Receive copies of all articles, books, video tapes, translations and other material relating to the exhibit.

IN addition, the Smithsonian Institution has begun work on an additional section of the exhibit, "The War in the Pacific."

Commander Detweiler and his representatives have met with the four former Air Force and Naval officers who are writing the section. NASM officials also have assured Detweiler that the exhibit will be part of the main exhibition and not a separate one as originally intended. They said it will recognize American GIs' sacrifices in the war; and it will depict the Japanese aggression that led up the use of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

To their assurances, the Commander has responded: "We have adopted the old Reagan philosophy of 'trust, but verify.' We accept their assurances, but we want to see them in their final form."

No one can predict how many more revisions the script will undergo before the exhibit opens. One thing is certain though. The opposition of veterans and The American Legion has forced the Smithsonian to re-examine and rewrite its scripts. As then-National Commander Bruce Thiesen told the National Executive Committee before opening the National Convention, "We went face to face with the Smithsonian officials, and they blinked." □

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OUR JOB

Continued from page 29

and tragedies brought on by the atomic bombs.

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To those who consider its proper presentation to the public, I say: "Full Speed Ahead!" We have waited too long for all the wrong reasons to exhibit this aircraft. Too many have labeled the atomic missions as war crimes in an effort to force their politics and their opinions on the U.S. public and to damn military history.

Thus far the proposed display of the Enola Gay is a package of insults. Resting on an arrangement that will be shaped like a cradle, the 60-some feet of fuselage and forward bomb bay — without wings, engines and propellers, landing gear and tail assembly — makes for an awesome sight. If nothing else, it will have the aura of evil in which the airplane is being cast.

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THE BULGE

Continued from page 31

250,000 white-clad Germans stormed out of the fog and snow. They came with 2,567 tanks and assault guns.

The initial blow struck the raw 106th Div. head on and sent it reeling. Soon 8,000 GIs were surrounded and forced to surrender, the largest capture of U.S. troops of the war, other than Bataan. But others held firm. Army engineers operating a sawmill dropped their tools to set up a roadblock. A combat team of the 7th Armored Div. under Brig. Gen. R.W. Hasbrouck held out for five vital days in the crossroad town of St. Vith. "Cumzieout!" a German yelled as he hammered on the door of Capt. Dudley Britton's command post. "Cumzieout, hell!" Britton shouted back. "What've you got out there that I want? Cumzie-in, Mac!"

Germans dressed as Americans and driving captured jeeps and tanks further confused the fighting. Intimate knowledge of baseball trivia and American geography took the place of passwords to determine who was friend or foe. Gen. Omar Bradley was suspect to one sentry because he insisted Springfield, not Chicago, was the capital of Illinois.

The Germans quickly opened a 12-mile gap in the American lines when Allied airpower, grounded by the weather for nine days, was unable to attack. The market town hub of Bastogne soon became the focal point of defenders and attackers who raced to get there first.

"Ike" had little choice but to put the U.S. First Army under Montgomery's command to compress the bulge in the American lines. As one GI described it, within two hours the Briton was in First Army headquarters like "Christ come to cleanse the temple."

Eisenhower asked Gen. Omar Bradley and Gen. George S. Patton, head of the fast-moving Third Army, how soon they could turn 90 degrees and get into action. Forty-eight hours, Patton responded. "Don't be fatuous, George," Ike replied. But in one of the remarkable maneuvers of the war, Patton did it. "Root, hog or die," he told his men.

Meanwhile, paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions were rushed into trucks in France where they were getting a well-earned rest and preparing for a Christmas Day football game. The 101st Screaming Eagles beat the Germans into undefended Bastogne by five miles but were soon cut off. "They have us surrounded, the poor bastards," said one U.S. trooper.

As the U.S. guns dwindled to 10 rounds apiece, the Germans called on Brig. Gen. C. Anthony McAuliffe, commander of the encircled 101st, to surrender "in the name of well-known American humanity." McAuliffe's reply for them and the ages read: "To the German Commander/Nuts/The American Commander."

On Dec. 23, the weather finally cleared. Allied planes flew 15,000 bombing and supply missions to Bastogne. On the southern hinge of the Bulge, Patton had moved 250,000 men and 50,000 vehicles in a week, an unprecedented achievement. By Dec. 26, Col. Creighton Abrams had 20 tanks and a column of halftracks just outside the Bastogne perimeter. Barracks lore had it that you couldn't serve under Abrams unless you had killed your own mother and were born out of wedlock.

"Let 'er roll!" said Abrams, and the siege was over.

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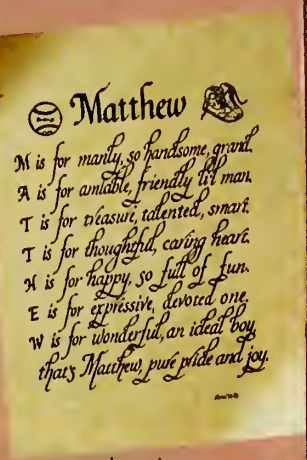

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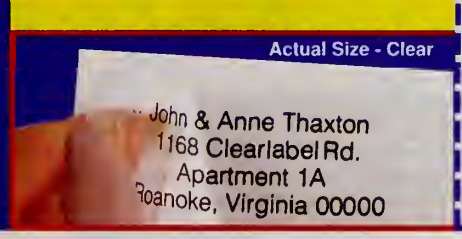

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THE BULGE

Continued from page 72

from where the attack began, the German tanks had run out of fuel just as Field Marshall Model had forewarned. Americans under Maj. Gen. Ernest Harmon destroyed 88 German tanks in "a great slaughter." Autumn Mist was over. But brutal combat was not.

After the Germans murdered 98 surrendered Americans of Battery B, 285th Field Artillery, near Malmedy in Belgium, the GIs were loath to take prisoners. Pvt. John Fague saw 60 German POWs marched over a hill. Later he saw 60 dark shapes in the snow. In the village of Bande, the Gestapo had rounded up suspected resistance fighters at the start of the offensive. Weeks later a British Tommy found the frozen bodies of 34 of them, all shot in the neck. In their snow-covered foxholes, some GIs stacked frozen German bodies over their heads to ward off shrapnel.

On New Year's Day, in what the GIs called "The Hangover Raid," the Luftwaffe flew a last-gasp attack and destroyed 156 Allied planes on the ground, including Montgomery's personal C-47. But 300 German pilots were killed, and German air strength was never a factor thereafter.

Eisenhower, meanwhile, was furious at Montgomery's delay in attacking the Bulge from the north to cut off the milling Germans. "Monty" threw more fuel on the fire by writing out orders for "Ike" to sign that gave Montgomery the authority to lead a subsequent all-out attack by the Allied armies across northern Germany to Berlin. Eisenhower almost fired the cocksure but slow-moving Brit.

But Montgomery held a self-serving news conference in January, featuring the pronoun "I" — "I employed the whole available power of the British group of armies [bringing it] into battle with a bang" and "I think possibly one of the most interesting and tricky battles I have ever handled..." Patton, whose GIs had supplied the bang, and Bradley exploded. The Bulge had been predominantly an American battle. In the snow and chaos of the Ardennes, the U.S. citizen-soldiers had come of age.

Men such as Sgt. John Bannister who manned a machine gun in the second floor of a house. "Take a 10-minute break. We'll be back!" yelled a German as he ran by. "Go to hell!" Bannister shouted back. "We'll still be here!" Or James Hendrix, one of Abrams' men, who single-handedly charged two German 88mm guns, forcing the crews to surrender. And the colonel who called in cannon fire right on his own position. "I might as well lose my head," he radioed. "I'm about to lose my ass."

Prime Minister Winston Churchill calmed the uproar over Montgomery. He told the British Parliament it had been primarily an American victory and one of their finest. So it was. □

TAPS

Taps notices are limited to only those Legionnaires who have held high national or department offices. We regret that we cannot extend the honor to all members.

Jules J. Corbett,IL Department Vice Commander (1987-88), Department Commander (1988-89).
Hugh A. Hacker,KY Department Commander (1960-61).
Alvin M. Krank,CA Department Commander (1991-92).

ADVERTISEMENT

Senior Citizens with Money in the Bank should Read This before it's Too Late

If you have worked hard all your life and managed to put away a nest egg, you might end up losing most of your life savings because of a defect in Medicare.

If you or your spouse suddenly become ill and require extended nursing home care...NO ONE will help you with the nursing home bills. Medicare won't and neither will your health insurance. By law you are responsible for the nursing home bills yourself. Only after you have used up virtually all of your money, will Medicaid step in. That's because Medicaid, like Welfare, only aids the poor. By some estimates, the average couple's life savings can be wiped out after only 13 weeks of nursing home care.

Rich people don't have to worry because they can afford super-expensive special nursing home insurance, while the poor are taken care of by Medicaid.

Now that just doesn't seem fair to working people with a lifetime of hard-earned savings. The system they have supported with tax dollars, seems to have forgotten them. Savings intended to provide security in retirement, or help for children, can quickly go up in smoke.

The fact is, if you don't know how to protect your assets, here's what can happen to you. By law, before Medicaid will pay nursing home bills, you have to spend all your countable assets except $2000 (or as low as $1500 in some states.) Countable assets mean not only money in checking and savings accounts...but also any funds in CD's, IRA's, Savings Bonds, Mutual Funds, stocks, whole life insurance, annuities and other types of investments, as well as most trust assets.

They can also take a vacation home or a second car. In addition, your entire Social Security or pension check can be taken to cover nursing home expenses. What's more, if you are single or widowed, you can even lose your house.

According to the federal law called the Spousal Impoverishment Act of 1988, if one spouse requires extended nursing home care, the healthy spouse can be forced to surrender HALF of their combined countable assets. And if you have a sizable estate, they can legally take MORE THAN HALF.

Is there anything you can do to stop this nightmare from happening to you? Yes. You are protected by law and can use several legal techniques to place your countable (or vulnerable) assets into the uncountable (or protected) category. The problem is, most people are not aware of their legal rights. Unfortunately, most people think Medicare will take care of them, so they unknowingly leave their assets vulnerable and in jeopardy.

Your legal rights and the many methods of protecting your money are now revealed in "How to Protect Your Financial Security." This financial self-defense manual tells you simple legal procedures for preserving your money and warns of pitfalls to avoid. Here is some of the valuable material you learn:

- **Three legal ways to turn countable (or vulnerable) assets into uncountable (or protected) assets**
- **How to protect your house from being sold to pay nursing home bills**
- **How to protect a second car or vacation home**
- **If you give your money to your children without following these precise guidelines, a nursing home could get your money anyhow**
- **This common legal mistake can actually prevent you or your spouse from receiving emergency medical care**
- **What you need to know about Living Trusts, especially since Congress changed the rules as of October 1, 1993**
- **How to prevent your bank account from being frozen if you enter a nursing home**
- **What lawyers never tell you about protecting your will**

As a hard-working taxpayer, you have a legal right to protect your life savings for yourself, your spouse or your heirs. You don't have to be rich to have peace of mind. You just have to follow the easy steps outlined in "How to Protect Your Financial Security."

Although "How to Protect Your Financial Security" can easily save you thousands of dollars, the price is very reasonable. Right now, you can receive a special press run for only $8.95 plus $1.00 postage and handling. It is not available in any bookstore. It is only available through this special offer on a 90 day Money Back Guarantee. If you are dissatisfied in any way, just return it in 90 days for a full refund, no questions asked.

HERE'S HOW TO ORDER: just print your name and address and the words "Financial Security" on a piece of paper and mail it along with a check or money order for only $9.95 to: THE LEADER CO., INC., Publishing Division, Dept. AB103, P.O. Box 8347, Canton, OH 44711. (Make checks payable to The Leader Co., Inc.) VISA or MasterCard, send card number and expiration date. Act now. Don't leave your assets in jeopardy.

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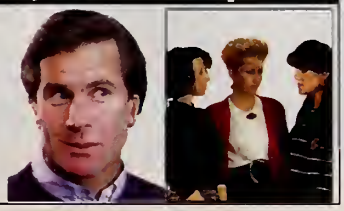

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Forget Vinegar On Salad. It Belongs In Your Body!

CHICAGO (Special) - Research from centers around the world report what ancient healers knew thousands of years ago -- *that vinegar is the wonder elixir for a healthier life.*

Since ancient times a daily dose of apple cider vinegar has been taken for good health and to control appetite.

Even Japan's feared Samurai warriors of years ago relied on a vinegar tonic for strength and power. A tonic you can make in your kitchen.

Today, countless reports and scientific studies praise the curative and preventive powers of vinegar as part of our daily diet.

Now, for the first time, over 300 trusted vinegar home remedies and recipes researched by noted natural health author Emily Thacker are yours to enjoy in *"The Vinegar Book."*

It's the most complete collection since the discovery of vinegar.

You'll learn vinegar folk remedies used to control your appetite to lose weight with a meal-time vinegar cocktail. And how to beat colds, ease painful arthritis, and other joint diseases with nature's own drug-free anti-inflammatory.

Scientific tests show organic vinegar is a natural storehouse of vitamins and minerals -- over 93 different components -- to fight ailments.

Just one spoonful is endowed with vitamins, minerals, enzymes, amino acids, nutrients and important pectin and beta carotene.

More than 70 different research studies have verified that ***beta carotene lowers the risk of getting cancer and it boosts the body's immune system.***

And pectin helps your body reduce cholesterol levels to lower the risk of cardiovascular disease.

"The Vinegar Book" will amaze and delight you with 308 time-honored folk remedies that mix vinegar with other kitchen staples to:

- Improve your metabolism
- Ease arthritis, aches, pain
- Aid digestion& stomach
- Help lower cholesterol
- Uses for middle ear problems
- Condition problem skin
- Fade age and liver spots
- Gain soft, radiant skin
- Amazing hair treatments
- Relieve nighttime leg cramps
- Soothe sprained muscles
- Fight osteoporosis with calcium
- Help headaches fade away
- Corn and callus relief
- Relieve insect bites, rashes
- Remedy for urinary problems
- Use for coughs, colds
- Heart and circulatory problems

The above is only a brief sample of the uses for vinegar you'll learn about.

You'll combine herbs with vinegar to create tenderizers, mild laxatives, mouth washes, tension relievers, and salad dressings.

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Continued from page 62

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49th Ftr Grp Assn (1941-Present) #16929
61st Troop Carrier Sqdn #19081
61ST TCG, 14TH TCS #19025
61ST TCG, 53RD TCS #19027
61ST TCG, 59TH TCS #19026
78th AAFBU, Spec. Serv. Band AACS (1944-45) #14998
112th Liaison Sq., 9th AF #12163
313th Bomb Wing (VH), 6th Bomb Grp. (Tinian) #15138
321st Serv. Gp., 9th Serv. Sq. #16751
328th Ftr. Cntrl. Sq. #20012
365th Ftr. Sqn, 9th AF #19092
385th Bomb. Grp. Memorial Assn. (Sta. 155, Eng. WWII) #16893
404th Ftr. Grp.: All Ftr. Sq. (WWII) #17000
438th TC Grp. (WWII) #21144
457th Bomb Grp. Assn. (WWII) #20024
474th Air Serv. Grp., 892nd Air Serv. Sq. (P-38, WWII) #13708
484th B. Grp. "Pathfinder" (49th B.Wing, 15th AF Torretta Italy, WWII) #10404
506th Ftr. Grp., 457th/458th/462nd Sqs. - (Iwo Jima/WWII) #11200
919th Engr. Avn. Maint. (SCAWAF) #10510
1129th Avn. MP Co. (1943-45) WWII #18714
1403rd AAFBU (Prestwick Scotland) 1943-45 ATC Eur Div #13874
4145th AAFBU Tucson Mod. Center #18923
4145th Base Unit ATSC #18943
AAF Cadets - Parks Coll. 1940's #18335
Aviation Cadet Class 42-K #19061
Avn. Cadet Class 42-B #13339
Cadet Class 42-D (Luke, Mather, Stockton & Williams Fields) #18991
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Eastern Ind. St. Univ. - Air Crew Trng. (WWII) #14959
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Pilot Class 43-C (W.Coast Trng. Cmd.) #22861
Pilot Class 45-B (Marfa, TX & Luke Field AZ) #28351
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Stalag Luft III (Ex POWS) #21501

Marines

1st Mar. Div., 1st Rgt., 2nd Bn. (Korea) #20324
1st Mar. Div., 5th Rgt., 2nd Bn., H & S Co. (Korea) #13941
1st Mar. Div., 5th Rgt., 2nd Tank Bn. (Cp. LeJeune NC, 1954-55) #13935
1st Mar. Div., 5th Rgt., Anti-Tank Co. (Korea, 1953-54) #13936
1st Mar. Div., 5th Rgt., Weapons Co. (WWII) #13880
1st Mar. Div., 7th Rgt., 2nd Bn., "H" Co. (Vietnam) #18970
1st Mar. Div., 7th Rgt., 3rd Bn., I-Co. #19112
1st Mar. Div., 7th Rgt., 3rd Bn., I Co. (Vietnam) #17179
1st Mar. Div., 27th Rgt., 2nd Bn. (Vietnam, 2/68-9/68) #13341
3rd Mar. Div., 3rd Rgt., 1st Bn., C Co. (1942-45) #11011
3rd Mar. Div., 9th Rgt., 1st Bn., D Co. (1965/66) #30055
3rd Mar. Div., 9th Rgt., 2nd Bn #14913
3rd Mar. Div., 9th Rgt., 3rd Bn., Lima Co. (L/3/9, 1964-65) #13219
3rd Recon. Bn., D Co. (Vietnam-65) #19117
5th Marines (Vietnam, 1969-70) #13922
7th Serv. Rgt., Motor Trans. Co. #10163
8th Amtrac Bn. (WWII) #13771
8th & I Marines (1951/54) #13087
10th Reserve Officers Class USMC #13756
Banana Fleet Marines (1920/40) #17168
CAP Unit Vets Assn. - Comb. Act. Pgm. (Vietnam 1965/71) #21321
Chi Chi Jima Marines #21003
Iwo Jima Reunion #15707
Keystone Mariners of Pennsylvania (AMMV) #14945
MAG-25 SCAT (WWII) #21038
Marine Barracks, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico #14928
Marine Corps League (Central Miss. Det.) #18777

MCRD (Boot camp) San Diego CA 1942 #14914
Mojave Station Hq. Sq. (1942/58) #21035
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USMCR Evansville IN, C Co. (1950-51) #18756
USS HUNLEY (AS-31) MAR. DET. 1960-66 #14918
USS Princeton CV-37 Marine Det. #18849
VMF(N)-Mar. AW Sq. (WWII, Korea) #19094
VMSB-931 (44-45) #18998

Merchant Marine

Merchant Marine - Keystone Chapt. (9-8-39/8-15-45) #18791

Coast Guard

CG Co. I (Groton CT, Oct 1949-Jan 1950) #13916
Hillcrest Barracks (Corpus Christi, TX) #13718
LST-67 #13684
USCG ALL WLB #18732
USCGC 83508 (Eniwetoc) #19093
USCGC Mariposa WLB-397 #18887
USS Admiral C.F. Hughes AP-124 (WWII) #13491
USS Admiral E.W. Eberle AP-123 (WWII) #13493
USS Admiral H.T. Mayo AP-125 (WWII) #13489
USS Admiral W.L. Capps AP-121 (WWII) #13175
USS General George M. Randall AP-115 (WWII) #11890
USS General W.H. Gordon AP-117 (WWII) #11882
USS General William Mitchell AP-114 (WWII) #11884
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USS General William Weigel AP-119 (WWII) #11886

Miscellaneous

74th Fighter Interceptor Sq. '53-56 #19122
145th MAG North Carolina Air Nat'l Guard (Former Pilots, Nav. & FS) #13765
302nd College Trng. Det. #13951
American Airpower Heritage Museum Symp. (WWII) #12800
A.P. Transport Assn. #18620
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Iwo Jima Survivors Assn of Texas #22242
Korea Revisit Tour #20447
LST 32 #19058
Moroccan Reunion Assn. #17273
Overseas Veterans Assn. WWII #19099
Pre-Meteorology School IA Univ., Iowa City (1943-44) #18831
St. Norbert College (1939-50) #13994
USS Grampus (SS-523) #19054
USS Tolovana A.O.64 #19043
Veterans Appreciation 4th Annual Banquet(N.E. State University) #19005
West Virginia "First All Veterans" #18368
Wisconsin Place-Named Ships of WWII (50th Anniv.) #18829
WWII Amputees @ McCloskey Gen. Hosp. (Temple, TX) #14980
Yeoman Training Co., Newport RI (Late 43-early 44) #17886

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Roman Breuer (1993), Harold Bamke, Clemens Wolf (1994) Post 483, Allenton, WI

IN SEARCH OF...

This column is for readers searching for groups of veterans for purposes other than forming a reunion (use VETS column) or to find witnesses to verify VA health claims (use COMRADES IN DISTRESS column). No notices seeking information about relatives or friends will be published. Notices are published free, on a space-available basis.

A book titled *The Third Infantry Div. in Korea*, to buy or borrow. Contact: Charles A. Russo, 101 Yachtsman Cir., Alabaster, AL 35007; or call collect 1-205-663-0393.
A copy of the history of the 225th AAA SL Bn. (Semi), which was printed in Germany in 1945. Contact: Eugene A. Pontius, 300 Lord Byron Lane, Cockeysville, MD 21030.
Artifacts, donations and memorabilia from U.S. military personnel stationed at Trinidad, for museum displays. Contact: Gaylord Keishall, Chagauramas Military History and Aviation Museum, P.O. Box 3126, Carinage, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies.
First-hand experiences of Marines in WWII, for a book. Contact: Capt. Wilbur Jones, USNR (Ret.), 6562 Zoysia Ct., Alexandria, VA 22312; 1-703-750-1845.
Former members of engineer firefighting platoons, for research. Contact: James G. Davis, 5 Iliwai Loop, Kihei, Maui, HI 96753-7102; 1-808-875-8126.

Please turn to page 83

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VETERANS DAY

Continued from page 23

school district for supporting it and the Legion for putting it together."

The man who puts it together is Tom Creighton, a former state senator who, as Post Commander in 1984, organized the first Veterans Day observance with the help of the school system superintendent. He's been involved with it ever since.

Last year, the school teachers surprised Creighton and the other veterans attending the observance. The finale was to be a rendition of "God Bless the U.S.A" by the school choir. What the Legion organizers and others didn't know was that the schools had taught each of the grade-school students to sing the song.

When "God Bless the U.S.A." began, the veterans and the choir were drowned out by the sweet voices of 2,000 flag-waving children.

"When all those kids got up and sang, and started waving those flags — I'll tell you, there wasn't a dry eye in the stadium," Creighton recalls. □

FAMILY WEEK

Continued from page 16

and showcase the best ones at a dinner.

Some additional ways to generate attention and publicity for the week include advertising in local newspapers, on the radio, or on television. Also, consider ordering National Family Week billboards, T-shirts, sweatshirts and balloons. Posts can also write news releases for publication or create a public service announcement for TV and radio.

"Every one of us can do our part to make tomorrow a better place for our children," says Ray Smith, Chairman of the Legion's Americanism Commission. "The American Legion has always stood for family values. Let's make National Family Week a time to honor this tradition."

For more information or ideas for celebrating National Family Week, write to: Family Services America Inc., 1700 West Lake Park Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53224. Or call 1-800-221-2681. □

By Nancy Price

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PREJUDICES

Continued from page 25

Q. *Newsweek* ran a cover story on the new cultural elite. What do you perceive to be the biases of the cultural elite in the media?

A. I've sensed in the media an obsession with the offbeat in American society rather than people who just live ordinary, work-a-day lives. Propaganda works by repetition. If you are told time and time again that every white male is, *ipso facto*, a racist, chauvinist pig, that becomes a leitmotif to you. If you are told that every policeman is a brute, just wanting to bash a few heads — if you are told time and time again that the only reason corporations exist is to screw up the streams, steal money from widows and orphans, and put out shoddy products — it becomes accepted.

Woodward and Bernstein did a good job of reporting on the Nixon administration, but I fear that every young reporter who comes out of journalism school feels that the way to make a mark on America is to be a Woodward or Bernstein. So their challenge is to find dirt under every carpet. I was at a seminar for investigative reporters and editors that had a workshop called "How to Find Corruption in Your Little League." Now this is pretty picayune stuff. What kind of corruption can you have here? I mean, this is absurdity.

Q. What kinds of biases do you think magazines display?

A. On certain issues, opposing voices don't get heard. For instance, people who oppose abortion are pariahs to certain journalists. The journalists simply don't recognize that this represents a significant body of thought in America—for religious and other reasons. They are uniformly depicted in magazines as just raving kooks.

A second point has to do with a report we made on the media coverage on the gay-rights march on Washington last year. According to the organizers, the theme of the march was, "We want to be a mainstream presentation, this is what we'll show Americans in their living rooms." And that's the attitude the media took. The media themselves censored out what the organizers of the parade could not. The organizers didn't want Dykes on

Bikes at the front of the parade; they put them in the rear. They didn't want the crossdressers and transvestites in the parade, but they were there.

They didn't want the kooky guys wearing nylons and high heels and military uniforms—they were there. But the mainstream media didn't show them.

Q. Do you think the media—including the newsmagazines—made a conscious decision not to show those groups?

A. Oh, definitely. if you are in the news business and you see something that makes you blink, right in the middle of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House, you put it on camera or write about it.

Q. Some would argue that the right-wing backlash on gay-rights issues and much of the coverage shows that homophobia is the last form of acceptable bigotry in this country.

A. It's not bigotry. We're not asking gay people to be branded and driven out of the country; we're simply saying that if you have a public march, a public demonstration, you should report on it. If a conservative group had had a march such as this, and some people showed up wearing Nazi uniforms and KKK robes, you can bet your bottom dollar they would be on the nightly news.

Q. But are KKK robes and same-sex cuddling really on the same level?

A. Well, I think that you could argue that the National Man-Boy Love Association is equivalent to the KKK.

Q. In your opinion, what other issues—social, political or economic—are the magazines of America not doing a good job of covering?

A. We've done a lot of reporting and harping on what we see as environmental scare stories—from acid rain to asbestos to radon. *Newsweek* this spring had a special insert for children on the environment, and we found seven major factual errors in four pages. That was intended for the classroom. Now this is the sort of thing that shouldn't be tolerated by a magazine.

Here's a second example. General Motors earlier this year announced a plan whereby their plants would no longer accept any packaging from suppliers that could not be recycled. They would no longer take shipments in wooden crates. If you send it into GM, it has to be reusable or recyclable. Think about that. GM has thousands of suppliers around the country. This has a major impact on industrial America, and not a single major media outlet has reported this story. Now, this is a landmark, a watershed event in American business. *Time* and other media outlets would prefer to report that corporations are the big polluters of the world. When they do something that is a major positive step, it isn't mentioned. To me, that's bias.

Q. Some of your critics say that your organization should be renamed *Advocacy* in Media, that you claim to want fairness and accuracy when what you really want is for your views to predominate.

A. I don't want a conservative press; I don't want a liberal press. I just want an objective press where a citizen can sit down and make up his own mind. □

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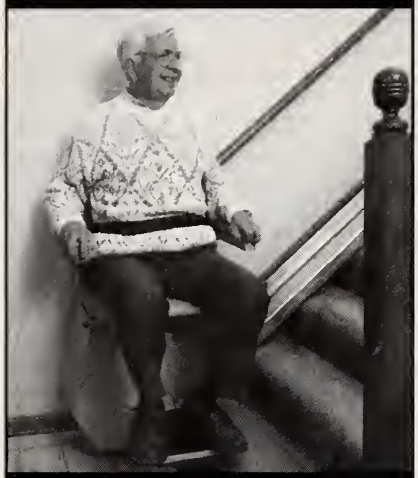

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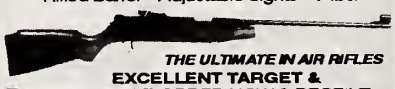

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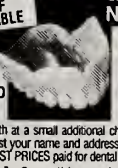

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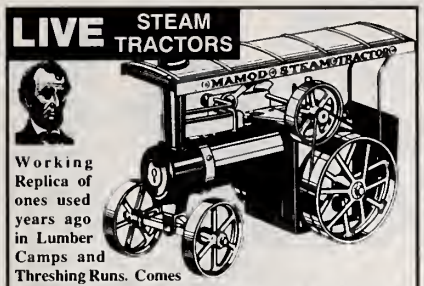

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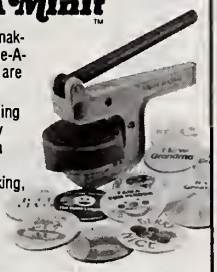

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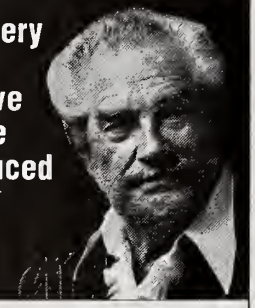

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IN SEARCH OF...

Continued from page 77

GIs involved with the liberation of the Buchenwald Concentration Camp in 1945, to document their experiences for a museum. Contact: Dr. Irmgard Seidel, Gedenkstatte-Buchenwald, Direktion-Haus 5, 0-5301 Weimar-Buchenwald, Germany.

Help in building a "foxhole radio" used by GIs in WWII. Contact: Joseph A. Palmer Jr., 511 Cherry St., Punxsutawney, PA 15767-1415.

History, stories and anecdotes about USS PGM-1 thru PGM-8 in the Solomons during WWII, for a book. Contact: George Puente, 73 Alexander Ave. Yonkers, NY 10704-4229.

Information, photos, anecdotes from members of USNTC Recruit Co. 88 of 1946, the Navy's first integrated company, for an article. Contact: Thomas F. Mason Jr., HC 83, Box 4300, Coquille, OR 97423.

Information about air strikes on Munda and Rendova in the Solomons before October 1943, and the occupation of Bau Island, for research. Contact: Harol Lee, 839 Central Ave., Salinas, CA 93901.

Information on the 188th Signal Support Co. Contact: Walter F. Claussen, P.O. Box 613, Mount Ida, AR 71957-0613.

Information on the 514th Medical Group in Winooski, Vt., from 1951-53. Contact: Charles R. Greene, 504 N. farrell Dr., Palm Springs, CA 92262.

Information on the U.S. military hospital in Merrylands, near Sidney, Australia, in 1944-45. Contact: Kenneth O. Johnson, 2a De Escobedo #32 La Loma, 46689 Ameca Jal, Mexico.

Members of the 26th Inf. Div. and the 11th Armored Div. who operated in north Bavaria and Czechoslovakia in April 1945, for a research project. Contact: Al O'Connell, Box 170, RR1, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

Native American veterans who have personal wartime and military experiences that can be used in conjunction with the National Native American War Memorial. Contact: National Native American War Memorial, P.O. Box 1145, Lander, WY 82520; 1-307-332-6970.

Navy bomb disposal personnel at Truk and other Caroline Islands; Rota and Pagan in the Marianas; Wake and Marcus Islands from V-J Day to 1947, for research. Contact: Leo Ponsar, 1218 Keokuk Ave., Hazleton, IA 50641.

Plankowners and other crewmembers of USS Rhodes (DER-384), from 1955 to 1963, for decommissioning. Contact: Eugene C. Nelson, 7203 Shelton Ct., Chesterfield, Va, 23832-6667; 1-804-748-8264.

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ASIAN WOMEN! Overseas, traditional. Free details. Sunshine International Correspondence, Box 5500-HK, Kailua-Kona, HI 96745-5500, (808) 325-7707.

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"Here's an interesting item: Married couples usually end up looking alike."

Leaky Luck

Bruce: "Do you think you'll ever be rich and famous?"

Bill: "No. With my luck, when my ship comes in, it will be a raft loaded with refugees."

Lunar Luggage

We just celebrated the 25th anniversary of man's return from the moon. Their luggage should be showing up any day now.

The Fine Print

"Nothing in fine print is ever good news."

—Andy Rooney
60 Minutes

Three-Year Plan

It's great how some colleges allow you to get a degree in three years. That gives students one extra year to be unemployed.

Bad Raputation

Jerry: "What do you think of modern music?"

Elaine: "Well, I feel a lot of it has got a bum rap."

Cooking Prices

Too many cooks not only spoil the broth, but they jack up the overhead.

Huff 'N' Puff

These days, there's so much walking involved to get to a smoking area, it can actually be good for you.

Food Fighters

Marge: "This banquet food is awful."

Lisa: "I know what you mean. Three terrorist groups have called in to claim responsibility."

De-Generation

It's a wonderful generation to belong to! Everything that's wrong is the fault of the generation ahead of us and is going to have to be corrected by the one after us.

Bible Belt Tight.ning

Times have been hard for everyone. A small Bible publishing company just filed Chapter 11, Verses 1 through 14.

Jump Smart

A minister, a Boy Scout and the nation's top computer executive were the only passengers on a plane. The pilot came back and said that the plane was going down but there were only three parachutes.

The pilot said, "I should have one of the chutes because I have a wife and three small children," and he jumped.

The computer executive said, "I should have one of the parachutes because I am the smartest man in the world and they will need me," and he jumped.

The minister turned to the Boy Scout and with a sad smile said, "You are young and I have lived a good life, so you take the parachute and I'll go down with the plane."

The Boy Scout said, "Relax, reverend, the smartest man in the world just picked up my knapsack and jumped out of the plane!"

Daffynitions

Conscience: What hurts when everything else feels so good.

Class reunion: A gathering where you come to the conclusion that most of the people your own age are a lot older than you are.

Elephant: A mouse built to government specifications.

Critical Care

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